

Chapter 1 : ResoluteReader: A.L. Morton - A People's History of England

A people's history of England This classic work by AL Morton lays out the main outlines and most important turning points of British history - from the point of view of the ordinary people - in a clear and jargon-free style.

Though his religious position was not entirely Protestant, this led to the Church of England breaking from the Roman Catholic Church. There followed a time of great religious and political troubles, and the English Reformation. The first to reign was Edward VI of England. Although he was intelligent, he was only a boy of ten when he took the throne in 1547. When Edward VI died of tuberculosis in 1553, Mary I took the throne when crowds cheered for her in London, which people at the time said was the largest show of affection for a Tudor monarch. This led to burnings of Protestants, and much hatred from her people. Mary lost Calais, the last English possession on the Continent, and became even more unpopular except among Catholics at the end of her reign. The reign of Elizabeth returned a sort of order to England in 1558. The religious question that had divided the country since Henry VIII was put to rest by the Elizabethan Religious Settlement, which set up the Church of England in much the same form it has today. The slave trade that made Britain a major economic power began with Elizabeth, who gave John Hawkins permission to start trading in the West Indies. Queen Elizabeth The government of Elizabeth was more peaceful, apart from the revolt of the northern earls in 1569, and she was able to lessen the power of the old nobility and expand the power of her government. One of the most famous events in English military history was in 1588 when the Spanish Armada lost against the English navy, commanded by Sir Francis Drake. In all, the Tudor period is seen as an important one, leading to many questions that would have to be answered in the next century during the English Civil War. These were questions of how much power the monarch and Parliament should have, and how much one should control the other. English Civil War Elizabeth died without children who could take the throne after her. Her closest male Protestant relative was the king of Scotland, James VI, of the house of Stuart, so he became James I of England, the first king of the entire island of Great Britain, although he ruled England and Scotland as separate countries. Maps of territory held by Royalists red and Parliamentarians green during the English Civil War 1642-1651 A republic was declared, and Oliver Cromwell became the Lord Protector in 1653. After he died, his son Richard Cromwell followed him in the office, but soon quit. In 1665, London was hit with the plague, and then, in 1666, the capital was burned for 5 days by the Great Fire, destroying around 10,000 buildings. However, in Scotland and Ireland, Catholics loyal to James II were not so happy, and a series of bloody revolts followed. These rebellions continued until the mid-17th century, when Charles Edward Stuart was defeated at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Chapter 2 : Narrative History of England - Part 1: The Prehistoric Period

The English people are a nation and an ethnic group native to England who speak the English language. The English identity is of early medieval origin, when they were known in Old English as the Angelcynn ("family of the Angles").

The first modern humans homo sapiens arrived during the Ice Age about 35,000 to 10,000 years ago, when the sea levels were lower and Britain was connected to the European mainland. It is these people who built the ancient megalithic monuments of Stonehenge and Avebury. Between 1,000 and 400 BCE, Celtic tribes migrated from Central Europe and France to Britain and mixed with the indigenous inhabitants, creating a new culture slightly distinct from the Continental Celtic one. This was the Bronze Age. The Romans controlled most of present-day England and Wales, and founded a large number of cities that still exist today. London, York, St Albans, Bath, Exeter, Lincoln, Leicester, Worcester, Gloucester, Chichester, Winchester, Colchester, Manchester, Chester, Lancaster, were all Roman towns, as in fact were all the cities with names now ending in -chester, -cester or -caster, which derive from Latin castrum "fortification". The Anglo-Saxons The Romans progressively abandoned Britannia in the 5th century as their Empire was falling apart and legions were needed to protect Rome. With the Romans gone, the Celtic tribes started fighting with each others again, and one of the local chieftain had the not so brilliant idea to request help from the some Germanic tribes from the North of present-day Germany and South of Denmark. These were the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, who arrived in the 5th and 6th centuries. However, things did not happen as the Celts had expected. The Germanic tribes did not go back home after the fight, and on the contrary felt strong enough to seize the whole of the country for themselves, which they did, pushing back all the Celtic tribes to Wales and Cornwall, and founding their respective kingdoms of Kent the Jutes, Essex, Sussex and Wessex the Saxons, and further north East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria the Angles. These 7 kingdoms, which rules over all England from about 450 to AD 1000, were later known as the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy. The Vikings From the second half of the 9th century, the Norse from Scandinavia started invading Europe, the Swedes taking up Eastern Europe, Russia which they founded as a country and the Byzantine Empire, the Norwegians raiding Scotland and Ireland, discovering and settling in the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland and were in fact the first Europeans to set foot in America in AD 1000, while the Danes wrought havoc throughout Western Europe, as far as North Africa. Another group of Danes managed to take Paris, and obtain a grant of land from the King of France in 911. The Normans After having settled in their newly acquired land, the Normans, adopted the French feudal system and French as official language. During that time, the Kings of Wessex had resisted and eventually vanquished the Danes in England in the 10th century. But the powerful Canute the Great, king of the newly unified Denmark and Norway and overlord of Schleswig and Pomerania, led two other invasions on England in 1016 and 1017, and became king of England in 1016, after crushing the Anglo-Saxon king, Edmund II. He nominated William, Duke of Normandy, as his successor, but upon his death, Harold Godwinson, the powerful Earl of Wessex, crowned himself king. William refused to acknowledge Harold as King and invaded England with 12,000 soldiers in 1066. King Harold was killed at the battle of Hastings by an arrow in the eye, as the legend as it is, and William the Conqueror become William I of England. His descendants have sat on the throne of England to this day. William I ordered a nationwide survey of land property known as the Domesday Book, and redistributed land among his vassals. The Norman rulers kept their possessions in France, and even extended them to most of Western France Brittany, Aquitaine English nevertheless remained the language of the populace, and the fusion of English a mixture of Anglo-Saxon and Norse languages with French and Latin used by the clergy slowly evolved into modern English. Richard I "Lionheart" was hardly ever in England, too busy defending his French possessions or fighting the infidels in the Holy Land. During that time, his brother John "Lackland" usurped the throne and started another civil war. He also happened to be gay, which led to his imprisonment and tragic murder by his wife and her lover see Gloucester. Escaping several assassination attempts, Henry also had to deal with the revolt of Owen Glendower, who declared himself Prince of Wales in 1400, then with the rebellion of the Earl of Northumberland. Henry V, famously defeated the French at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, but his pious and

peace-loving son Henry VI , who inherited the throne at just one year old, was to have a much more troubled reign. The regent lost most of the English possessions in France to a year old girl Joan of Arc and in , the Wars of the Roses broke out. Except for getting married six times, desperate for a male heir, Henry changed the face of England, passing the Acts of Union with Wales , thus becoming the first English King of Wales, then changing his title of Lord of Ireland into that of also first King of Ireland To assure the control over the clergy, Henry dissolved all the monasteries in the country and nationalised them, becoming immensely rich in the process. Henry VIII was the last English king to claim the title of King of France, as he lost his last possession there, the port of Calais although he tried to recover it, taking Tournai for a few years, the only town in present-day Belgium to have been under English rule. It was also under Henry VIII that England started exploring the globe and trading outside Europe, although this would only develop to colonial proportions under his daughters, Mary I and especially Elizabeth I after whom Virginia was named. Mary I , a staunch Catholic, intended to restore Roman Catholicism to England, executing over religious dissenters in her 5-year reign which earned her the nickname of Bloody Mary. Mary died childless of ovarian cancer in , and her half-sister Elizabeth ascended the throne. It was an age of great navigators like Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh see Plymouth , an age of enlightenment with the philosopher Francis Bacon , and playwrights such as Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare Her reign was also marked by conflicts with France and Scotland bound by a common queen, Mary Stuart , then Spain and Ireland. Elizabeth was an undecisive and prudent ruler. She never married, and when Mary Stuart tried and failed to take over the throne of England, Elizabeth kept her imprisoned for 19 years most of the time in Chatsworth House under the guard of the Earl of Shrewsbury , before finally signing her act of execution. The divide between Catholics and Protestant worsened after this incident. Despite being an Anglican Protestant, his marriage with a French Roman Catholic combined with policies at odd with Calvinist ideals and his totalitarian handling of the Parliament eventually culminated in the English Civil War The country was torn between Royalist and Parliamentary troops, and most of the medieval castles still standing were destroyed during that period eg. Kenilworth , Corfe , Bodiam Charles was beheaded, and the puritan leader of the Parliamentarians, Oliver Cromwell , ruled the country as a dictator from to his death. The Restoration The "Merry Monarch", as Charles II was known, was better at handling Parliament than his father, although as ruthless with other matters. Charles II was the patron of the arts and sciences. Charles acquired Bombay and Tangiers through his Portuguese wife, thus laying the foundation for the British Empire. The couple was "invited" by the Protestant aristocracy to conduct an invasion from the Netherlands. James was allowed to escape to France, where he remained the rest of his life under the protection of Louis XIV. His son and grandson later attempted to come back to the throne, but without success. The new ruling couple became known as the "Grand Alliance". The parliament ratified that all kings or queens would have to be Protestant from then on. Anne died heirless in , and a distant German cousin, George of Hanover, was called to rule over the UK. This marked a turning point in British politics, as future monarchs were also to remain more passive figures, letting the reins of the government to the Prime Minister. He was a powerful ruler, and the last British monarch to personally lead his troops into battle. Handel was commissioned to compose his coronation anthem "Zadok the Priest" , which has been sung at every coronation since. The British Empire expanded considerably during his reign and the song "God Save the King" also developed during that period. Some other notable changes include the replacement of the Julian Calendar by the Gregorian Calendar in , and the New Year was officially moved from 25 March to 1 January. However, 13 years later, the American War of Independence started after the British government imposed a series of taxes on the colonies. The 13 American colonies were finally granted their independence in and formed the United States of America. George III suffered from an hereditary disease known as porphyria, and his mental health seriously deteriorated from By he was permanently insane see Regency below. During that time, Britain had to face the ambitions of Napoleon to conquer the whole of Europe. Great industrial cities such as Birmingham , Manchester , Liverpool , Leeds and Sheffield emerged as the new economic centres of the country, their population booming several fold. The gap between the rich and the poor increased considerably, as was poignantly described by Charles Dickens in such novels as David Copperfield or Oliver Twist. The Regent was known for his extravagance and liking for women. He was more often

diverting himself in his magnificent Oriental-style pavilion in Brighton than worrying about the affairs of state in London, leaving the power to the Prime Minister, Lord Liverpool, during most of his reign. George IV notoriously had poor relationships with his father, and especially his wife, Caroline of Brunswick, refusing to recognise her as Queen and seeking to divorce her. In 1801, the Whig party came back to power and Earl Grey, the new Prime Minister after whom the tea is named, reformed the electoral system. On the cultural scene, the early 19th century was highly prolific. In 1841, Albert died prematurely at the age of 42. Victoria was devastated and retired in a semi-permanent state of mourning. She nevertheless started a romantic relationship with her Scottish servant John Brown, and there were even talks of a secret marriage. The latter years of her reign were dominated by two influential Prime Ministers, Benjamin Disraeli and his rival William Ewart Gladstone. The former was the favourite of the Queen, and crowned her "Empress of India" in 1876, in return of which Victoria creating him Earl of Beaconsfield. Gladstone was a liberal, and often at odd with both Victoria and Disraeli, but the strong support he enjoyed from within his party kept him in power for a total of 14 years between 1868 and 1874. He legalised trade unions, advocated both universal education and universal suffrage well, at least for men. The First World War left over 9 million dead including nearly 1 million Britons throughout Europe, and financially ruined most of the countries involved. The monarchies in Germany, Austria, Russia and the Ottoman Empire all fell, and the map of central and eastern Europe was redesigned. The consequences in Britain were disillusionment with the government and monarchy, and the creation of the Labour Party. The General Strike of 1926 and the worsening economy led to radical political changes, and women were granted the same universal suffrage as men from age 21 instead of previously 30 in 1928. His brother then unexpectedly became George VI after the scandal. Nazi Germany was becoming more menacing as Hitler grew more powerful and aggressive. The charismatic Winston Churchill became the war-time Prime Minister in 1940 and his speeches encouraged the British to fight off the attempted German invasion. In one of his most patriotic speeches before the Battle of Britain, Churchill address the British people with "We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender. Most of these ex-colonies formed the British Commonwealth, now known as the Commonwealth of Nations. In 1952, Elizabeth II b. Although she somewhat rehabilitated the image of the monarchy, her children did not, and their sentimental lives have made the headlines of the tabloid newspapers at least since the marriage of Charles, Prince of Wales, with Lady Diana Spencer see Althorp in 1981. The Hippie subculture also developed at that time. Conservative PM Margaret Thatcher b. She privatised the railways and shut down inefficient factories, but also increased the gap between the rich and the poor by cutting on the social security. Thatcher was succeeded in her party by the unpopular John Major, but in 1997, the "New Labour" more to the right than the "Old Labour" came back to power with Tony Blair b. Bush especially regarding the invasion of Iraq in 2003 disappointed many Leftists, who really saw in Blair but a Rightist in disguise. But Blair has also positively surprised many by his intelligence and remarkable skills as an orator and negotiator. Nowadays, the English economy relies heavily on services. The main industries are travel discount airlines and travel agencies, education apart from Oxford and Cambridge universities and textbooks, hundreds of language schools for learners of English, music EMI, HMV, Virgin

Chapter 3 : What Happened in the s inc. News, Popular Culture, Prices and Technology

In the Iron Age, England, like all of Britain south of the Firth of Forth, was inhabited by the Celtic people known as the Britons, including some Belgic tribes (e.g. the Atrebates, the Catuvellauni, the Trinovantes, etc.) in the south east.

Constitution became effective in , the s saw much of the modern Western world establish itself. During the beginning of the s many nations were created within areas of the "New World" and Africa was continually colonized. Civil War broke out in the United States in the middle of the s, it ended in with the abolition of slavery. The discovery of new fuel sources like petroleum and electricity kicked industrialization into high-gear. By the end of the century, advances in communications with the creation of the telephone meant that the world was becoming increasingly connected. Find more on our s page. Modernization and World War I During the s and s the shift to an industrial society was nearly complete as factory work became the norm and the agrarian economy became more reliant machines. Mass manufacturing of consumer goods transformed the way people lived their lives and more leisure time meant that the consumption of entertainment increased. The newly invented automobile and newly developed mass transportation systems like subways, trams, and rail, meant that traveling became easier. The advancement of industry and technology, while improving the lives of many, also paved the way for mass destruction as illustrated during World War I. The a global conflict was the deadliest in modern history up until that point. Find more on our s page and our s page. Jazz Age and Prohibition At the end of the First World War, the well-intentioned League of Nations was established in , and the aggressors of the war, particularly Germany, were punished with steep reparations. The aftermath of the war led to an unstable and economically struggling Europe, causing countries like Germany and Italy to turn to nationalism and fascism and countries like England and France and the U. The s also marked a decade full of huge advances in flight technology with Charles Lindbergh completing the first non-stop transatlantic flight from New York to Paris in Around the rest of the globe, Communism spread throughout the Soviet Union and China, which also led to civil war. In October of , the U. Stock Market crashed, quickly spiraling the U. Roosevelt as the President in and throughout the decade his administration implemented many socialist reforms, known as the New Deal, to help bring the nation out of the depression. Prohibition ended in with the ratification of the 21st Amendment. Poor farming practices and a massive drought caused the "Dust Bowl" in the Great Plains states. In Europe, Nazi Germany rose to power as Hitler appointed himself Furher in , marking the beginning of the Holocaust. As a result, millions of Jewish people and political opponents were interned and murdered. During the decade Spain also fell to authoritarianism as General Francisco Franco became dictator of the nation after their civil war. Japan amped up its aggression in the East, invading China in Germany became outwardly aggressive as well, continually violating the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, annexing Austria in and invading Poland in Germany joined with Italy and Japan to form the Axis Powers and began its ultimately unsuccessful invasion of the Soviet Union in Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States into the war and by Allied forces successfully stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, turning the tide in favor of the Allies. By May of , Adolf Hitler committed suicide and Germany surrendered. The remainder of the decade was marked by the establishment of the United Nations in and war crimes trials for leaders in the Axis powers to answer for their crimes against humanity. The United States emerged from the war as a world power and placed itself opposite the Soviet Union, in doing so beginning a decades-long ideological conflict with the U. The era of computing also began during this decade with the creation of the first programmable computer ENIAC in and the invention of the transistor in The United States developed the first hydrogen bomb in and the Soviet Union made theirs in , accelerating the nuclear arms race. The Civil Rights movement also began in this decade, the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case declared racial segregation in public schools as unconstitutional, paving the way for integration. Martin Luther King Jr. Near the end of the decade the Space Race began as the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite with Sputnik 1 in and in the U. Civil Rights Movement and Space Race The s were a time of great societal upheaval and political uncertainty. In , John F. Kennedy was elected as the U. President and represented a hopeful future for many. Cold War tensions rose early in the decade with the

Cuban Missile Crisis in , bringing the world to the brink of nuclear war. JFK was assassinated in and was succeeded by Lyndon B. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Space Race brought huge scientific advances throughout the decade with the USSR putting the first human Yuri Gagarin, in space in and it came to a dramatic end in with the U. The Personal Computer had its start during this decade as the microprocessor was created in , Microsoft and Apple companies were created, and the first PCs were sold to retail consumers. At the outset of the s the United States was still heavily involved in the Vietnam War and had invaded Cambodia in , prompting an outpouring of anti-war demonstrations. By the United States had pulled out of Vietnam. In OAPC Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries placed an oil embargo on the United States leading to fuel shortages and inflation and although the embargo ended in , its effects permeated much of the rest of the decade. Through diplomatic efforts, conflict in the Middle East cooled down throughout the late s and in Egypt re-opened the Suez Canal after 8 years of blockade. In the Camp David Accords were signing, creating a framework for peace between Egypt and Israel and in a peace treaty was signed, ending three decades of conflict between the two sides. Beginning of the Digital Age In the s the Cold War tensions were at their highest at the beginning of the decade, but, by the end of the decade tensions had waned as the collapse of the Soviet Union seemed imminent. Ronald Reagan was elected as the U. President in and had taken a hard stance against the Soviet Union, increasing tensions and leading to symbolic gestures such as the mutual boycotts of the Moscow Olympics and Los Angeles Olympics. In the AIDS virus was identified as it became a global health crisis and much of the decade was spent researching the new illness and developing methods to treat it. Technology continued to advance at a more rapid pace as computers became more common and more advanced. The mobile phone was introduced in and a new generation of portable technology emerged. In , the Soviet Union experienced one of the largest nuclear disasters at the time at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine, an incident which prompted several nations around the world take steps to improve safety in their nuclear power plants or to phase out nuclear power completely. The Internet and Globalization The s, as in several previous decades, was marked by even more rapid advancements in technology than the decade before it. In , Tim Berners-Lee proposed the World Wide Web, laying the foundation for the Internet as we know it, and in the Internet was made available for unrestricted commercial use. As the decade went on, the Internet became a larger and more users logged on, connecting across the globe to share in information and ideas. In , the search engine "Google" was founded and has since become a dominating force in the online world. The Cold War officially ended and in the Soviet Union was dissolved. Bill Clinton was elected as the U. Debates erupted over cloning, genetic modification, and stem cell research throughout the decade and in Dolly the Sheep, the first successfully cloned mammal, was revealed to the world. In an effort to fight against climate change and high fuel prices hybrid vehicles became mainstream as more companies started producing them. Handheld technology became smaller and more powerful, mobile phones became ubiquitous, and in the middle of the decade the Smart Phone was created most notably the iPhone in allowing people to carry what amounted to a small computer with internet access around with them at all times. The development of "Social Media" was also influential during this decade with the popularity of social sharing websites like Myspace , Facebook , YouTube , and Twitter Several large notable natural and man-made disasters devastated the decade with the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami , Hurricane Katrina , and Sichuan earthquake The decade ended with the financial crisis, causing a recession as the housing bubble, auto industry, and banking system collapsed in the U. Fashion Through the Decades Find hundreds of fashion images from the s to the s in our clothes and accessories page. Check out how fashion has changed in the past years from flapper styles in the s, Hollywood glamour of the s, work clothes for the s, excessive dresses from the s, mini skirts of the s, s disco glitz, colorful and bold styles of the s, and s sporty fashion. Pages feature style descriptions and original prices, historical context, and a variety of items including womens, childrens, mens, accessories, shoes, and hats. Find more on our Fashions page. Popular Childrens Toys s to s Simple wood toys and dolls proved popular in the s and mass-produced toys like die-cast cars emerged. Comic books became widely available in the Thirties and many still-popular board games were invented during the decade. In the s, industrial accidents created the best toys with the Slinky and Silly Putty being created during the War when other materials were being developed. Potato Head, and other classic favorites were first created during the

decade. The first widely popular and successful video game, PONG, was released in the Seventies starting off the craze of digital entertainment. In the s, the hunt for new toys was mass undertaking and the first mass hysteria for a product came in with the Cabbage Patch Doll. Popular toys from the s included the collectible Beanie Babies and portable digital games like the GameBoy were also a must-have for kids. On our toy pages we have brief overviews for each decade and have many toy images, descriptions, and prices from when they were originally sold. Find more on our Toys page. Modern History Quizzes Take a look at our Modern History Quiz pages where you can test your knowledge on world history events from before the s to the s. Find more on our Modern History Quizzes page. Sports Our Sports History pages feature in-depth information about the creation of our favorite past times. We detail the changes from the inception of certain sports to the modern incarnation and take note of political influences, entertainment purposes, and much more. We have overviews of all types of different activities and more detailed pages on Baseball, Basketball, Football, Ice Hockey, Soccer, and Golf. Find more on our Sports page.

Chapter 4 : BBC - History - Ancient History in depth: Peoples of Britain

A complete social and political history of England. Originally published in many of the earliest books, particularly those dating back to the 15th and before, are now extremely scarce and increasingly expensive. Obscure Press are republishing these classic works in affordable, high quality.

When Columbus and his sailors came ashore, carrying swords, speaking oddly, the Arawaks ran to greet them, brought them food, water, gifts. He later wrote of this in his log: They willingly traded everything they owned. They were well-built, with good bodies and handsome features. They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance. They have no iron. Their spears are made of cane. They would make fine servants. With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want. These Arawaks of the Bahama Islands were much like Indians on the mainland, who were remarkable. European observers were to say again and again for their hospitality, their belief in sharing. These traits did not stand out in the Europe of the Renaissance, dominated as it was by the religion of popes, the government of kings, the frenzy for money that marked Western civilization and its first messenger to the Americas, Christopher Columbus. As soon as I arrived in the Indies, on the first Island which I found, I took some of the natives by force in order that they might learn and might give me information of whatever there is in these parts. The information that Columbus wanted most was: Where is the gold? He had persuaded the king and queen of Spain to finance an expedition to the lands, the wealth, he expected would be on the other side of the Atlantic—the Indies and Asia, gold and spices. For, like other informed people of his time, he knew the world was round and he could sail west in order to get to the Far East. Spain was recently unified, one of the new modern nation-states, like France, England, and Portugal. Its population, mostly poor peasants, worked for the nobility, who were 2 percent of the population and owned 95 percent of the land. Spain had tied itself to the Catholic Church, expelled all the Jews, driven out the Moors. Like other states of the modern world, Spain sought gold, which was becoming the new mark of wealth, more useful than land because it could buy anything. There was gold in Asia, it was thought, and certainly silks and spices, for Marco Polo and others had brought back marvelous things from their overland expeditions centuries before. Now that the Turks had conquered Constantinople and the eastern Mediterranean, and controlled the land routes to Asia, a sea route was needed. Portuguese sailors were working their way around the southern tip of Africa. Spain decided to gamble on a long sail across an unknown ocean. In return for bringing back gold and spices, they promised Columbus 10 percent of the profits, governorship over new-found lands, and the fame that would go with a new title: Admiral of the Ocean Sea. He set out with three sailing ships, the largest of which was the Santa Maria, perhaps 100 feet long, and thirty-nine crew members. Columbus would never have made it to Asia, which was thousands of miles farther away than he had calculated, imagining a smaller world. He would have been doomed by that great expanse of sea. But he was lucky. One-fourth of the way there he came upon an unknown, uncharted land that lay between Europe and Asia—the Americas. It was early October, and thirty-three days since he and his crew had left the Canary Islands, off the Atlantic coast of Africa. Now they saw branches and sticks floating in the water. They saw flocks of birds. These were signs of land. Then, on October 12, a sailor called Rodrigo saw the early morning moon shining on white sands, and cried out. It was an island in the Bahamas, the Caribbean sea. The first man to sight land was supposed to get a yearly pension of 10,000 maravedis for life, but Rodrigo never got it. Columbus claimed he had seen a light the evening before. He got the reward. So, approaching land, they were met by the Arawak Indians, who swam out to greet them. The Arawaks lived in village communes, had a developed agriculture of corn, yams, cassava. They could spin and weave, but they had no horses or work animals. They had no iron, but they wore tiny gold ornaments in their ears. This was to have enormous consequences: He then sailed to what is now Cuba, then to Hispaniola, the island which today consists of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. There, bits of visible gold in the rivers, and a gold mask presented to Columbus by a local Indian chief, led to wild visions of gold fields. On Hispaniola, out of timbers from the Santa Maria, which had run aground, Columbus built a fort, the first European military base in the Western Hemisphere. He called it Navidad, Christmas and left thirty-nine

crewmembers there, with instructions to find and store the gold. He took more Indian prisoners and put them aboard his two remaining ships. At one part of the island he got into a fight with Indians who refused to trade as many bows and arrows as he and his men wanted. Two were run through with swords and bled to death. Then the Nina and the Pinta set sail for the Azores and Spain. When the weather turned cold, the Indian prisoners began to die. He insisted he had reached Asia it was Cuba and an island off the coast of China Hispaniola. His descriptions were part fact, part fiction: Hispaniola is a miracle. Mountains and hills, plains and pastures, are both fertile and beautiful There are many spices, and great mines of gold and other metals The Indians, Columbus reported, "are so naive and so free with their possessions that no one who has not witnessed them would believe it. When you ask for something they have, they never say no. To the contrary, they offer to share with anyone The aim was clear: They went from island to island in the Caribbean, taking Indians as captives. On Haiti, they found that the sailors left behind at Fort Navidad had been killed in a battle with the Indians, after they had roamed the island in gangs looking for gold, taking women and children as slaves for sex and labor. Now, from his base on Haiti, Columbus sent expedition after expedition into the interior. They found no gold fields, but had to fill up the ships returning to Spain with some kind of dividend. In the year , they went on a great slave raid, rounded up fifteen hundred Arawak men, women, and children, put them in pens guarded by Spaniards and dogs, then picked the five hundred best specimens to load onto ships. Of those five hundred, two hundred died en route. The rest arrived alive in Spain and were put up for sale by the archdeacon of the town, who reported that, although the slaves were "naked as the day they were born," they showed "no more embarrassment than animals. And so Columbus, desperate to pay back dividends to those who had invested, had to make good his promise to fill the ships with gold. In the province of Cicao on Haiti, where he and his men imagined huge gold fields to exist, they ordered all persons fourteen years or older to collect a certain quantity of gold every three months. When they brought it, they were given copper tokens to hang around their necks. Indians found without a copper token had their hands cut off and bled to death. The Indians had been given an impossible task. The only gold around was bits of dust garnered from the streams. So they fled, were hunted down with dogs, and were killed. Trying to put together an army of resistance, the Arawaks faced Spaniards who had armor, muskets, swords, horses. When the Spaniards took prisoners they hanged them or burned them to death. Among the Arawaks, mass suicides began, with cassava poison. Infants were killed to save them from the Spaniards. In two years, through murder, mutilation, or suicide, half of the , Indians on Haiti were dead. When it became clear that there was no gold left, the Indians were taken as slave labor on huge estates, known later as encomiendas. They were worked at a ferocious pace, and died by the thousands. By the year , there were perhaps fifty thousand Indians left. By , there were five hundred. A report of the year shows none of the original Arawaks or their descendants left on the island. The chief source-and, on many matters the only source-of information about what happened on the islands after Columbus came is Bartolome de las Casas, who, as a young priest, participated in the conquest of Cuba. For a time he owned a plantation on which Indian slaves worked, but he gave that up and became a vehement critic of Spanish cruelty. In it, he describes the Indians. They are agile, he says, and can swim long distances, especially the women. They are not completely peaceful, because they do battle from time to time with other tribes, but their casualties seem small, and they fight when they are individually moved to do so because of some grievance, not on the orders of captains or kings. Women in Indian society were treated so well as to startle the Spaniards. Las Casas describes sex relations: Marriage laws are non-existent men and women alike choose their mates and leave them as they please, without offense, jealousy or anger. They multiply in great abundance; pregnant women work to the last minute and give birth almost painlessly; up the next day, they bathe in the river and are as clean and healthy as before giving birth. The Indians, Las Casas says, have no religion, at least no temples. They live in large communal bell-shaped buildings, housing up to people at one time They prize bird feathers of various colors, beads made of fishbones, and green and white stones with which they adorn their ears and lips, but they put no value on gold and other precious things.

Chapter 5 : People's History of the NHS – Official Website

The first Hanoverian king to be born in England with English as his native language, George III () had one of the most troubled and interesting reign in British history.

England, predominant constituent unit of the United Kingdom , occupying more than half of the island of Great Britain. Despite the political, economic, and cultural legacy that has secured the perpetuation of its name, England no longer officially exists as a governmental or political unit—unlike Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland , which all have varying degrees of self-government in domestic affairs. It is rare for institutions to operate for England alone. Notable exceptions are the Church of England Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, including Northern Ireland, have separate branches of the Anglican Communion and sports associations for cricket , rugby , and football soccer. In many ways England has seemingly been absorbed within the larger mass of Great Britain since the Act of Union of 1707. Laced by great rivers and small streams, England is a fertile land, and the generosity of its soil has supported a thriving agricultural economy for millennia. Today the metropolitan area of London encompasses much of southeastern England and continues to serve as the financial centre of Europe and to be a centre of innovation—particularly in popular culture. LondonTime-lapse video of London. Alex Silver One of the fundamental English characteristics is diversity within a small compass. Formed of the union of small Celtic and Anglo-Saxon kingdoms during the early medieval period, England has long comprised several distinct regions, each different in dialect , economy, religion, and disposition; indeed, even today many English people identify themselves by the regions or shires from which they come. Yet commonalities are more important than these differences, many of which began to disappear in the era after World War II , especially with the transformation of England from a rural into a highly urbanized society. While English culture draws on the cultures of the world, it is quite unlike any other, if difficult to identify and define. There is something distinctive and recognizable in English civilization. It has a flavour of its own. Moreover it is continuous, it stretches into the future and the past, there is something in it that persists, as in a living creature. Much of it consists of rolling hillsides, with the highest elevations found in the north, northwest, and southwest. The oldest sedimentary rocks and some igneous rocks in isolated hills of granite are in Cornwall and Devon on the southwestern peninsula, ancient volcanic rocks underlie parts of the Cumbrian Mountains, and the most recent alluvial soils cover the Fens of Cambridgeshire , Lincolnshire , and Norfolk. Between these regions lie bands of sandstones and limestones of different geologic periods, many of them relicts of primeval times when large parts of central and southern England were submerged below warm seas. Geologic forces lifted and folded some of these rocks to form the spine of northern England—the Pennines , which rise to 2, feet metres at Cross Fell. The Cumbrian Mountains , which include the famous Lake District , reach 3, feet metres at Scafell Pike, the highest point in England. Slate covers most of the northern portion of the mountains, and thick beds of lava are found in the southern part. Other sedimentary layers have yielded chains of hills ranging from feet metres in the North Downs to 1, feet metres in the Cotswolds. The hills known as the Chilterns , the North York Moors, and the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Wolds were rounded into characteristic plateaus with west-facing escarpments during three successive glacial periods of the Pleistocene Epoch about 2,, to 11, years ago. When the last ice sheet melted, the sea level rose, submerging the land bridge that had connected Great Britain with the European mainland. Deep deposits of sand, gravel, and glacial mud left by the retreating glaciers further altered the landscape. Erosion by rain, river, and tides and subsidence in parts of eastern England subsequently shaped the hills and the coastline. Plateaus of limestone , gritstone, and carboniferous strata are associated with major coalfields, some existing as outcrops on the surface. The geologic complexity of England is strikingly illustrated in the cliff structure of its shoreline. A varied panorama of cliffs, bays, and river estuaries distinguishes the English coastline, which, with its many indentations, is some 2, miles 3, km long. The Welland river valley forms part of the rich agricultural land of Lincolnshire. The Thames , the longest river in England, also rises in the Cotswolds and drains a large part of southeastern England. All flow into the English Channel and in some instances help to form a pleasing landscape along the coast. Soils In journeys of only a few miles it is possible

to pass through a succession of different soil structures—such as from chalk down to alluvial river valley, from limestone to sandstone and acid heath, and from clay to sand—each type of soil bearing its own class of vegetation. The Cumbrian Mountains and most of the southwestern peninsula have acid brown soils. The eastern section of the Pennines has soils ranging from brown earths to podzols. Leached brown soils predominate in much of southern England. Acid soils and podzols occur in the southeast. Regional characteristics, however, are important. Black soil covers the Fens in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk; clay soil predominates in the hills of the Weald in East Sussex and West Sussex ; and the chalk downs, especially the North Downs of Kent, are covered by a variety of stiff, brown clay, with sharp angular flints. Fine-grained deposits of alluvium occur in the floodplains, and fine marine silt occurs around the Wash estuary. Climate Weather in England is as variable as the topography. England is known as a wet country, and this is certainly true in the northwest and southwest. However, the northeastern and central regions receive less than 30 inches mm of rainfall annually and frequently suffer from drought. In parts of the southeast the annual rainfall averages only 20 inches mm. Not for nothing has the bumbershoot been the stereotypical walking stick of the English gentleman. Plant and animal life England shares with the rest of Britain a diminished spectrum of vegetation and living creatures, partly because the island was separated from the mainland of Europe soon after much of it had been swept bare by the last glacial period and partly because the land has been so industriously worked by humans. For example, a drastic depletion of mature broad-leaved forests, especially oak , was a result of the overuse of timber in the iron and shipbuilding industries. Today only a small part of the English countryside is woodland. Broad-leaved oak, beech, ash, birch, and elm and conifer pine, fir, spruce, and larch trees dominate the landscapes of Kent, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex , Suffolk , and Hampshire. Vegetation patterns have been further modified through overgrazing, forest clearance, reclamation and drainage of marshlands, and the introduction of exotic plant species. Though there are fewer species of plants than in the European mainland, they nevertheless span a wide range and include some rarities. Certain Mediterranean species exist in the sheltered and almost subtropical valleys of the southwest, while tundra-like vegetation is found in parts of the moorland of the northeast. England has a profusion of summer wildflowers in its fields, lanes, and hedgerows, though in some areas these have been severely reduced by the use of herbicides on farms and roadside verges. Cultivated gardens, which contain many species of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants from around the world, account for much of the varied vegetation of the country. Mammal species such as the bear, wolf, and beaver were exterminated in historic times, but others such as the fallow deer , rabbit, and rat have been introduced. More recently birds of prey have suffered at the hands of farmers protecting their stock and their game birds. The bird life is unusually varied, mainly because England lies along the route of bird migrations. Some birds have found town gardens, where they are often fed, to be a favourable environment , and in London about different species are recorded annually. London also is a habitat conducive to foxes, which in small numbers have colonized woods and heaths within a short distance of the city centre. There are few kinds of reptiles and amphibians—about half a dozen species of each—but they are nearly all plentiful where conditions suit them. Freshwater fish are numerous; the char and allied species of the lakes of Cumbria probably represent an ancient group, related to the trout, that migrated to the sea before the tectonic changes that formed these lakes cut off their outlet. The marine fishes are abundant in species and in absolute numbers. The great diversity of shorelines produces habitats for numerous types of invertebrate animals. People Ethnic groups and languages The English language is polyglot, drawn from a variety of sources, and its vocabulary has been augmented by importations from throughout the world. The English language does not identify the English, for it is the main language of Wales, Scotland, Ireland, many Commonwealth countries, and the United States. The primary source of the language, however, is the main ethnic stem of the English: Their language provides the most commonly used words in the modern English vocabulary. During the Roman occupation England was inhabited by Celtic-speaking Brythons or Britons , but the Brythons yielded to the invading Teutonic Angles, Saxons, and Jutes from present northwestern Germany except in the mountainous areas of western and northern Great Britain. The Anglo-Saxons preserved and absorbed little of the Roman-British culture they found in the 5th century. The history of England before the Norman Conquest is poorly documented, but what stands out is the tenacity of the Anglo-Saxons in surviving

a succession of invasions. They united most of what is now England from the 9th to the mid-11th century, only to be overthrown by the Normans in 1066. For two centuries Norman French became the language of the court and the ruling nobility; yet English prevailed and by 1200 had reestablished itself as an official language. Church Latin, as well as a residue of Norman French, was incorporated into the language during this period. It was subsequently enriched by the Latin and Greek of the educated scholars of the Renaissance. The seafarers, explorers, and empire builders of modern history have imported foreign words, most copiously from Europe but also from Asia. These words have been so completely absorbed into the language that they pass unselfconsciously as English. The English, it might be said, are great Anglicizers. The English have also absorbed and Anglicized non-English peoples, from Scandinavian pillagers and Norman conquerors to Latin church leaders. Among royalty, a Welsh dynasty of monarchs, the Tudors, was succeeded by the Scottish Stuarts, to be followed by the Dutch William of Orange and the German Hanoverians. English became the main language for the Scots, Welsh, and Irish. England provided a haven for refugees from the time of the Huguenots in the 17th century to the totalitarian persecutions of the 20th century. Many Jews have settled in England. Since World War II there has been large-scale immigration from Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, posing seemingly more difficult problems of assimilation, and restrictive immigration regulations have been imposed that are out of step with the open-door policy that had been an English tradition for many generations. Religion Although the Church of England is formally established as the official church, with the monarch at its head, England is a highly secularized country. The Church of England has some 13,000 parishes and a similar number of clergy, but it solemnizes fewer than one-third of marriages and baptizes only one in four babies. The Nonconformist non-Anglican Protestant churches have nominally fewer members, but there is probably greater dedication among them, as with the Roman Catholic church. There is virtually complete religious tolerance in England and no longer any overt prejudice against Catholics. The decline in churchgoing has been thought to be an indicator of decline in religious belief, but opinion polls substantiate the view that belief in God and the central tenets of Christianity survives the flagging fortunes of the churches. Some churches—most notably those associated with the Evangelical movement—have small but growing memberships. There are also large communities of Muslims, Jews, Sikhs, and Hindus. Cathedral of Saint Mary, Chelmsford, England. Allan Cash Photolibary Settlement patterns The modern landscape of England has been so significantly changed by humans that there is virtually no genuine wilderness left. Only the remotest moorland and mountaintops have been untouched. Even the bleak Pennine moors of the north are crisscrossed by dry stone walls, and their vegetation is modified by the cropping of mountain sheep. The marks of centuries of exploitation and use dominate the contemporary landscape. The oldest traces are the antiquarian survivals, such as the Bronze Age forts studding the chalk downs of the southwest, and the corrugations left by the strip farming of medieval open fields. More significant is the structure of towns and villages, which was established in Roman-British and Anglo-Saxon times and has persisted as the basic pattern. The English live in scattered high-density groupings, whether in villages or towns or, in modern times, cities. Although the latter sprawled into conurbations during the 19th and early 20th centuries without careful planning, the government has since limited the encroachment of urban development, and England retains extensive tracts of farming countryside between its towns, its smaller villages often engulfed in the vegetation of trees, copses, hedgerows, and fields:

Chapter 6 : The People History from to Present day News, Prices, Popular Culture and More

Millions of people since Roman times have thought of themselves as 'British', for example, yet this identity was only created in with the Union of England, Wales and Scotland.

Print this page Introduction The story of early Britain has traditionally been told in terms of waves of invaders displacing or annihilating their predecessors. Archaeology suggests that this picture is fundamentally wrong. For over 10, years people have been moving into - and out of - Britain, sometimes in substantial numbers, yet there has always been a basic continuity of population. Substantial genetic continuity of population does not preclude profound shifts in culture and identity. It is actually quite common to observe important cultural change, including adoption of wholly new identities, with little or no biological change to a population. Arguably this remained generally true until the 17th century, when James I of England and VI of Scotland sought to establish a pan-British monarchy. Throughout recorded history the island has consisted of multiple cultural groups and identities. Many of these groupings looked outwards, across the seas, for their closest connections - they did not necessarily connect naturally with their fellow islanders, many of whom were harder to reach than maritime neighbours in Ireland or continental Europe. We can, however, say that biologically they were part of the Caucasoid population of Europe. The regional physical stereotypes familiar to us today, a pattern widely thought to result from the post-Roman Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions - red-headed people in Scotland, small, dark-haired folk in Wales and lanky blondes in southern England - already existed in Roman times. Insofar as they represent reality, they perhaps attest the post-Ice Age peopling of Britain, or the first farmers of 6, years ago. From an early stage, the constraints and opportunities of the varied environments of the islands of Britain encouraged a great regional diversity of culture. These groups were in contact and conflict with their neighbours, and sometimes with more distant groups - the appearance of exotic imported objects attest exchanges, alliance and kinship links, and wars. However, there is one thing that the Romans, modern archaeologists and the Iron Age islanders themselves would all agree on: This was an invention of the 18th century; the name was not used earlier. The idea came from the discovery around that the non-English island tongues relate to that of the ancient continental Gauls, who really were called Celts. This ancient continental ethnic label was applied to the wider family of languages. Archaeologists widely agree on two things about the British Iron Age: Of course, there are important cultural similarities and connections between Britain, Ireland and continental Europe, reflecting intimate contacts and undoubtedly the movement of some people, but the same could be said for many other periods of history. Compare the later cases of medieval Catholic Christianity or European Renaissance culture, or indeed the Hellenistic Greek Mediterranean and the Roman world - all show similar patterns of cultural sharing and emulation among the powerful, across ethnic boundaries. To a population of around three million, their army, administration and carpet-baggers added only a few per cent. The future Scotland remained beyond Roman government, although the nearby presence of the empire had major effects. These islanders actually became Romans, both culturally and legally the Roman citizenship was more a political status than an ethnic identity. Roman rule saw profound cultural change, but emphatically without any mass migration. However, Rome only ever conquered half the island. Yet in the long term, the continuous development of a shifting mosaic of societies gradually tended as elsewhere in Europe towards larger states. Thus, for example, the far north-western, Irish-ruled kingdom of Dalriada merged in the ninth century with the Pictish kingdom to form Scotland. The western-most parts of the old province, where Roman ways had not displaced traditional culture, also partook of these trends, creating small kingdoms which would develop, under pressure from the Saxons, into the Welsh and Cornish regions. The fate of the rest of the Roman province was very different: In contrast to Gaul, where the Franks merged with an intact Gallo-Roman society to create Latin-based French culture, the new Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in Britain, although melded from indigenous and immigrant populations, represented no such cultural continuity; they drew their cultural inspiration, and their dominant language, almost entirely from across the North Sea. Mixed natives and immigrants became the English. While its population has shown strong biological continuity over millennia, the identities the islanders have chosen to adopt have undergone

some remarkable changes. Many of these have been due to contacts and conflicts across the seas, not least as the result of episodic, but often very modest, arrivals of newcomers.

Chapter 7 : Culture of England - history, people, clothing, traditions, women, beliefs, food, customs, family

England's urbanism and notions of landscape and countryside are closely tied to the movement of people and economic sectors from major metropolitan areas into new towns, extensions of older towns, smaller towns, villages, and remote rural areas.

They landed in Kent and defeated two armies led by the kings of the Catuvellauni tribe, Caratacus and Togodumnus , in battles at the Medway and the Thames. Togodumnus was killed, and Caratacus fled to Wales. The Roman force, led by Aulus Plautius, waited for Claudius to come and lead the final march on the Catuvellauni capital at Camulodunum modern Colchester , before he returned to Rome for his triumph. The Catuvellauni held sway over most of the southeastern corner of England; eleven local rulers surrendered, a number of client kingdoms were established, and the rest became a Roman province with Camulodunum as its capital. By 54 AD the border had been pushed back to the Severn and the Trent, and campaigns were underway to subjugate Northern England and Wales. But in 60 AD, under the leadership of the warrior-queen Boudicca , the tribes rebelled against the Romans. At first, the rebels had great success. They burned Camulodunum, Londinium and Verulamium to the ground. There is some archaeological evidence that the same happened at Winchester. The Second Legion Augusta, stationed at Exeter , refused to move for fear of revolt among the locals. Paulinus gathered what was left of the Roman army. In the decisive battle , 10,000 Romans faced nearly 200,000 warriors somewhere along the line of Watling Street , at the end of which Boudicca was utterly defeated. It was said that 80,000 rebels were killed, but only 10,000 Romans. Over the next 20 years, the borders expanded just a little, but the governor Agricola incorporated into the province the last pockets of independence in Wales and Northern England. He also led a campaign into Scotland which was recalled by Emperor Domitian. The Romans and their culture stayed in charge for years. Traces of their presence are ubiquitous throughout England. The Anglo-Saxon migration[edit] Further information: Anglo-Saxon settlement of Britain Kingdoms and tribes in Britain , c. The entire region was referred to as " Hwicce ", and settlements throughout the south were called Gewisse. The Battle of Deorham was a critical in establishing Anglo-Saxon rule in The precise nature of these invasions is not fully known; there are doubts about the legitimacy of historical accounts due to a lack of archaeological finds. Britons invited the Saxons to the island to repel them but after they vanquished the Scots and Picts, the Saxons turned against the Britons. Seven Kingdoms are traditionally identified as being established by these Saxon migrants. Three were clustered in the South east: Sussex , Kent and Essex. The Midlands were dominated by the kingdoms of Mercia and East Anglia. To the north was Northumbria which unified two earlier kingdoms, Bernicia and Deira. Eventually, the kingdoms were dominated by Northumbria and Mercia in the 7th century, Mercia in the 8th century and then Wessex in the 9th century. Northumbria extended its control north into Scotland and west into Wales. It also subdued Mercia whose first powerful King, Penda , was killed by Oswy in Mercian power reached its peak under the rule of Offa , who from had influence over most of Anglo-Saxon England. Four years later, he received submission and tribute from the Northumbrian king, Eanred. However, the belief that the Saxons wiped or drove out all the native Britons from England has been widely discredited by a number of archaeologists since the s. Anyway Anglo-Saxons and Saxonified Britons spread into England, by a combination of military conquest and cultural assimilation. By the eighth century, a kind of England had emerged. Augustine , the first Archbishop of Canterbury , took office in The last pagan Anglo-Saxon king, Penda of Mercia , died in The last pagan Jutish king, Arwald of the Isle of Wight was killed in The Anglo-Saxon mission on the continent took off in the 8th century, leading to the Christianisation of practically all of the Frankish Empire by Throughout the 7th and 8th century power fluctuated between the larger kingdoms. Bede records Aethelbert of Kent as being dominant at the close of the 6th century, but power seems to have shifted northwards to the kingdom of Northumbria, which was formed from the amalgamation of Bernicia and Deira. Due to succession crises, Northumbrian hegemony was not constant, and Mercia remained a very powerful kingdom, especially under Penda. Two defeats ended Northumbrian dominance: Aethelbald and Offa , the two most powerful kings, achieved high status; indeed, Offa was considered the overlord of

south Britain by Charlemagne. However, a rising Wessex, and challenges from smaller kingdoms, kept Mercian power in check, and by the early 9th century the "Mercian Supremacy" was over. This period has been described as the Heptarchy, though this term has now fallen out of academic use. Other small kingdoms were also politically important across this period: Hwicce, Magonsaete, Lindsey and Middle Anglia. Danelaw, Viking Age, and Alfred the Great England in The first recorded landing of Vikings took place in Dorsetshire, on the south-west coast. However, by then the Vikings were almost certainly well-established in Orkney and Shetland, and many other non-recorded raids probably occurred before this. Records do show the first Viking attack on Iona taking place in The arrival of the Vikings in particular the Danish Great Heathen Army upset the political and social geography of Britain and Ireland. In Northumbria fell to the Danes; East Anglia fell in Though Wessex managed to contain the Vikings by defeating them at Ashdown in, a second invading army landed, leaving the Saxons on a defensive footing. Alfred was immediately confronted with the task of defending Wessex against the Danes. He spent the first five years of his reign paying the invaders off. In May he led a force that defeated the Danes at Edington. The victory was so complete that the Danish leader, Guthrum, was forced to accept Christian baptism and withdraw from Mercia. Alfred then set about strengthening the defences of Wessex, building a new navy of 60 vessels strong. These military gains allowed Edward to fully incorporate Mercia into his kingdom and add East Anglia to his conquests. Edward then set about reinforcing his northern borders against the Danish kingdom of Northumbria. The dominance and independence of England was maintained by the kings that followed. Two powerful Danish kings Harold Bluetooth and later his son Sweyn both launched devastating invasions of England. Anglo-Saxon forces were resoundingly defeated at Maldon in More Danish attacks followed, and their victories were frequent. His solution was to pay off the Danes: These payments, known as Danegelds, crippled the English economy. Then he then made a great error: In response, Sweyn began a decade of devastating attacks on England. Northern England, with its sizable Danish population, sided with Sweyn. By, London, Oxford, and Winchester had fallen to the Danes. Cnut seized the throne, crowning himself King of England. Alfred of Wessex died in and was succeeded by his son Edward the Elder. The titles attributed to him in charters and on coins suggest a still more widespread dominance. His expansion aroused ill-feeling among the other kingdoms of Britain, and he defeated a combined Scottish-Viking army at the Battle of Brunanburh. However, the unification of England was not a certainty. Nevertheless, Edgar, who ruled the same expanse as Athelstan, consolidated the kingdom, which remained united thereafter. England under the Danes and the Norman conquest[edit].

Chapter 8 : The History of England – Great history podcasts from the shed

A.L. Morton's A People's History of England is an extraordinarily readable Marxist calendrierdelascience.com Leslie Morton was a Communist Party activist and chair of the influential Communist Historians Group.

British, Britannic Orientation Identification. The name of the country and the term "English" derive from the Old English word for one of the three Germanic peoples that invaded the British Isles in the fifth century C. Englishness is highly regionalized. The most important regional divide is between the south and the north. The south, chiefly represented by the regions of the southeast, southwest, East Anglia, and the Midlands, now contains the economically most dynamic sectors of the country, including the City the chief financial center of the United Kingdom and the seat of the national government, both in London. The north, the cradle of industrialization and the site of traditional smokestack industries, includes Yorkshire, Lancashire, Northumberland, Cumbria, Durham, Merseyside, and Cheshire. Especially in the last decades of the twentieth century, the north has experienced deindustrialization, severe economic hardship, and cultural balkanization. England is also a culture of many smaller regionalisms, still centered on the old governmental unit of the county and the local villages and towns. Local products, such as ale, and regional rituals and art forms, such as Morris dancing and folk music, many of which date back to the preindustrial era, allow people to shape their attachments to their communities and the nation. Merged with the north-south divide and regionalism are notions of working class, middle class, and upper class as well as rich versus poor. Historically, the most prominent immigrant group has been the Irish, who came in two major waves in the modern era: Scots were present in England by the s and settled in England in large numbers during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, often for economic reasons. Welsh in-migration came to prominence when deindustrialization began in Wales in the s. This inmigration has brought the so-called Celtic fringe into English culture in a host of ways. England covers 50, square miles , square kilometers of the main island of the British Isles and lies off the northwestern coast of Europe, separated from the mainland by the English Channel. The Gulf Stream makes the climate mild and rainy. The country is also divided into a highland zone and a lowland zone along a line from the mouth of the River Exe in the southwest to the mouth of the River Tees in the northeast. As a result of its favorable topography, the lowland region has always had the majority of the population, supported most agriculture and trade, and had the largest cities including the capital, London. The population was The estimated nonwhite proportion of the population for that year was 7. Celtic in-migrations continues to be a major influence. These migrations are often urban in focus and tend to cluster in particular districts like London and Merseyside. The second important shift in demography from an ethnic standpoint is related to the end of the British Empire. Beginning in the s, peoples from the Indian subcontinent and the Caribbean began to immigrate to England, taking advantage of the British Nationality Act, which established that all Commonwealth citizens enjoyed British citizenship. Between and , the number of nonwhites in England, Scotland, and Wales rose from 2. In that same period Great Britain grew by just 5. European, Mediterranean, and East Asian immigrants have been part of the cultural landscape since the Middle Ages, when the Jewish community came to prominence and Flemish clothworkers began arriving. Immigrants to England in particular have been drawn there by the creation of a Common Market in Western Europe and the ending of restrictions on the movement of eastern Europeans. The primary language since the sixteenth century has been some version of English. English, however, is an amalgam of languages brought to the British Isles by invasions that began before written history. The Celts made Gaelic the dominant language until the Romans invaded in 55 and 54 B. The arrival of Christianity in allowed English to interact with Latin as well as with Greek, Hebrew, and languages as distant as Chinese. Viking invasions a few centuries later brought Scandinavian languages to the British Isles, while the Norman invasion in introduced French. Gradually, all levels of society adopted English, which had largely supplanted Latin and French in the second half of the fifteenth century. This divide between the East Midland dialect and all others emerged between the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries when those speaking with a "proper" or "posh" accent separated themselves from those speaking "Cockney" or working-class English. This division is signified by the distinction between

"received pronunciation" r. This linguistic divide has always corresponded with social rank. The elite generally spoke with an r. In recent decades the connection between class and accent has begun to loosen. Except in certain urban communities, bilingualism and multilingualism continue to play a minimal role in England. In the last decade, the many varieties of spoken English have been thriving. Thus, while Standard English still holds sway, it is no longer an unquestioned standard. From a political standpoint, the monarchy, Parliament, and the English or British constitution are central symbols with both physical and ritual manifestations. The monarchy expresses itself physically through the palaces and other residences of the royal family. Ritually, the monarchy permeates national life. Idealizations of village and town life from bygone days are common in the speeches of politicians. Other idealizations of the past are equally popular, from the preserved industrial landscapes of the Midlands and the north, to nature walks that refer to the ancient peoples who inhabited the area long before the English arrived, to the appearance of the "English" countryside. Before World War II the majority population insisted that newcomers assimilate and migrants were unable to lay claims to Englishness. More integrated national sports, especially soccer, and sports heroes represent the new ethnic landscape and provide symbols the young and the poor can claim. Similarly, movies, pop music, and plays have given less powerful groups ways of claiming Englishness. The New Commonwealth population also has produced widely read literary works. History and Ethnic Relations Emergence of the Nation. The emergence of the nation took place between and Although a dynastic conflict between successive English and French monarchs, this war became a cause in which Anglo-Saxon and Norman culture merged into a recognizably English culture. In the sixteenth century, nationalism took on another component: Elizabeth I, his daughter, created a sense of national unity through the conflicts she orchestrated with Catholic Spain. William subsequently affirmed Catholicism as being contrary to English and Irish law. Beginning with Scotland and Ireland in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and continuing with competitions with the Spanish, the Dutch, and the French between and , the English established a sense of expansionary patriotism. The final step in creating a national sentiment was taken in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries when the middle classes defined Englishness as a positive morality to which everyone could subscribe. English cultural roots lie in a merging of Anglo-Saxon, Danish, and Norman French culture that has existed as a synthesis since the late Middle Ages. A process of negotiation was at the heart of this cultural creation. After stripping them of their assets, Edward I expelled the Jewish community in , and Jews did not receive full rights and recognition until the twentieth century. The earliest guest workers, Flemish clothworkers, frequently found their contributions resented by "native" labor. German, French, and Low Countries Protestant refugees in the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries were confronted with ethnic prejudices. The Irish as Celts and Catholics and the Welsh and Scots as Celts also have faced resentment, especially in eras dominated by English nationalism and British imperialism. In the British Isles and abroad, the English record in colonized areas is no better than that of other European colonizing cultures. Beginning in the s with the Immigration Acts and reaching a low point with the British Nationality Act, laws have been passed to restrict the rights of foreigners to enter the country and obtain citizenship and benefits. Antiracism legislation and the improving economy have lessened public and official attention to the nonwhite population. However, economic migrants and political refugees, chiefly from East Asia, eastern Europe, and Africa, have taken the place of the non-white populace as objects of public concern. Cities are thought of as places of decay and degeneration by many people. The central principle in definitions of urban communities is their management and containment; this has been done by designating rings of nondevelopment green belts around major cities and urban areas. The emphasis on areas of nondevelopment also has influenced planning within cities and towns, with space being created for private and public gardens, parks, athletic fields, and other so-called greenfield sites. There has also been an emphasis on arranging cities and towns in more livable units, with more thought to the placement of work sites, public amenities, shopping areas, and dwellings and more of a focus on how streets cater to public and private uses. Villages and small towns that were fairly local or regional have become bedroom communities for large cities such as London or parts of larger regional urban networks. Sometimes they retain their original character, but more often affluent newcomers have changed these localities. Thus, while those in suburban, village, and small-town areas trumpet the rural nature of their lives, they have altered the rural landscape. Outside the

towns and villages, two forces dominate the countryside: Countering the trend toward developing the countryside to accommodate more housing are the preservationists, who want to expand parks, preserve a traditional country way of life, and keep urban dwellers out of these areas. Left out of towns, cities, villages, and rolling hills are those with no money and no political voice. Those most excluded from current visions and proposals are the poor and the urban-dwelling ethnic minority groups. Many different types of Englishness compete in towns, cities, villages, and the countryside. Architecturally, little is left from the Celtic, Anglo-Saxon and Roman periods, although Roman town planning, roads, and walls are still evident and Anglo-Saxon churches and Celtic monuments are still standing. The eighteenth century saw Georgian and neo-Gothic architecture, which continued into the nineteenth century when neo-Classical styles arose. The twentieth century has seen the rise of suburban building styles and Modernism and reactions against both in the form of conservation, community architecture, and a tendency to revive old styles such as neo-Classicism. Government buildings serve a range of symbolic purposes. Monuments more often symbolize particular historical figures or events. The purposes of public spaces also vary. The pews in a typical church promote an orderly separation between congregants while emphasizing togetherness as a congregation. Piccadilly Circus and many museums encourage people to mingle. Tea rooms, coffee shops, public houses, and nightclubs provide separate seating but promote a social atmosphere. People in England prefer to live in detached, suburban dwellings, ideally with a garden. First built in large numbers in the s, many suburban houses were built in twos with a garden in front and rear. Another detached style was the single-story bungalow, which also became popular in the s. Although in the post-war era it became common to build large, boxy modernist apartment blocks, especially for public housing, suburban building continued in additional new towns, some of which used the uniform, modernist styles. In private dwelling spaces, the English tend to fill much of the available space. Food and Economy Food in Daily Life. England is known for its bland cuisine. Traditional middle-class notions of diet put Blossoming croplands in Kent. Along with this main course, there might be a dish such as a meat casserole, and fish also was consumed.

Chapter 9 : History of England - Wikipedia

A people's history, or history from below, is a type of historical narrative which attempts to account for historical events from the perspective of common people rather than leaders. There is an emphasis on disenfranchised, the oppressed, the poor, the nonconformists, and otherwise marginal groups.

Geography[change change source] England is the largest part of the island of Great Britain , and it is also the largest constituent country of the United Kingdom. To the east and south, and part of the west, England is bordered by sea. France is to the south, separated by the English Channel. Ireland is a large island to the west, divided into Northern Ireland which is part of the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland. London is the largest city and the capital. The longest river in England is the River Severn. Other large rivers are the Thames which runs through London , the Trent and the Humber. History[change change source] England was named after a Germanic tribe called the " Angles ", who settled in Central, Northern, and Eastern England in the 5th century. A related tribe called the " Saxons " settled in the south of England. That is why that period of English history is called "Anglo-Saxon". For the majority of this time, England did not exist as a united country. The Anglo-Saxons lived in many small kingdoms, which slowly united. The later countries of England and Wales were formed from the earlier Roman Britain. England became one country in The first King of England was Athelstan. He lost land to Danish invaders , who formed their own country in the East and North. Many villages and towns in this area particularly in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire have Danish names, and use some Danish-based words. At one time Wessex in the West of England was the only English kingdom left. After many battles, King Alfred the Great of Wessex became king of the whole of England, and the old kingdoms Mercia, Northumberland , etc. England soon had an English king again. William the Conqueror , Duke of Normandy today part of northern France , said that Harold Godwinson had promised to make William the king, so he invaded England and fought King Harold at the Battle of Hastings in William won, and became king of England. There were many wars, often against France and Scotland. For many centuries the religion of England was Roman Catholicism. The bishops church leaders of England and all their churches obeyed the Pope and the church in Rome , Italy. During the Protestant Reformation many did not agree with this. He made Protestantism the official church in England. For the next years, there was struggle over whether the King or Queen of England should be "Roman Catholic" or "Protestant". She was a powerful queen who ruled for more than 40 years. He called his two countries "Great Britain", but they were still separate countries with their own parliaments and laws, even though they were in personal union. A lot of people did not like James because he was Roman Catholic. William of Orange was invited to invade England. Many people welcomed William because he was a Protestant. James left the country without a fight and Parliament asked William and Mary to become King and Queen together. While she was queen, England and Scotland were officially joined as one country. This was called the Acts of Union It also merged their separate parliaments. Later Ireland fought against this merging and the Republic of Ireland , which is not quite the whole island called Ireland, became a separate country. England is the only country of UK not to have its own government, Parliament or Assembly, but is governed by Parliament of the United Kingdom. In Parliament England has the most seats. English language The English language is a West Germanic language spoken in many countries around the world. With around million native speakers, it is the second most spoken language in the world , as a native language. As many as a billion people speak it as a second language. English is an influence on, and has been influenced by many different languages. Some people in England speak other languages, such as Welsh. Climate[change change source] All of Great Britain has an oceanic climate. The prevailing wind for most of the year is from the Atlantic , to the west of England. Therefore, there is more rain on the western side of the country. The east is colder and drier than the west. The country usually has a mild climate because the Gulf Stream to the western side is warm water. The climate is warmer than it was years ago, and now ice and snow are rare in the southern part of the country. Occasionally, air from the Arctic Circle comes down the eastern side of the country and the temperature can drop below 0oC.