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Chapter 1 : Jack Cade: From The Transformation of Medieval England by John A. F. Thomson.

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Chapter 2 : Kingdom of England - Wikipedia

Transformation of Medieval England , The and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.

First published by Longman, Harlow, Essex, England, Such popular movements as occurred between and the early sixteenth century must be seen against this background, which goes far to explain their character. The grievances which prompted them tended not to be social, but political, fiscal, or even religious. The Lollard rising of Sir John Oldcastle in had no social aims; indeed the rebels do not appear to have had any programme at all, beyond a vague idea of seizing the King without any very clear idea of what they would then do with him. The rising at Abingdon in with offshoots in the Midlands and London , which contemporaries associated with Lollardy, although on somewhat tenuous grounds, was undoubtedly anti-clerical, and some rebels seem to have put forward plans for ecclesiastical disestablishment. They do not, however, seem to have possessed any programme for the betterment of lay society. Although both these revolts secured some support from fairly widespread areas, this was not strong, and they were easily suppressed. One of his associates, Adam Moleyns, bishop of Chichester, was murdered on 9 January, he himself was committed to the Tower on the demand of the Commons on 28 January and two sets of articles of impeachment were laid against him. Although he was pardoned by the King and sent into exile presumably for his own protection , there were riots against him after his release from the Tower, and when he sailed from England he was intercepted and murdered on 2 May. Popular unrest had begun to develop even before his death - commissions were appointed to investigate insurrections in Kent on 2 February and in Surrey on 11 April, and a London chronicle tells of the arrest and execution, at an unspecified date, of a rebel leader known as Bluebeard. On 4 July they entered London, although the authorities there were able to reassert themselves more rapidly than in On the next day a pardon was offered to the rebels, who withdrew from the city, although their leader Cade remained under arms, putting himself outside the scope of the pardon, and was killed on 12 July. What was the cause of these disorders? This rumour may have done what the poll tax did in , set fire to a potentially explosive situation, indeed one which had already shown signs of bursting into flame. But it is clear that there were more fundamental problems. Allegations of treason were made concerning the loss of lands in France, a matter which may have particularly concerned the Kentishmen, whose vulnerability to raids was obvious, and who may well have been alarmed by the issue of a commission of array, and a command to set up warning beacons, on 14 April. Complaint was made that there was no free election of knights of the shire, and that those elected knights had taken bribes for appointing tax-collectors in it. The King was asked to take the duke of York into his counsel, to punish those responsible for the death of the duke of Gloucester and to end extortions, particularly those by four named persons. Apart from one passing reference to the Statute of Labourers, social grievances do not appear in the petition. More important are the political demands, but most significant of all was local discontent at the action of royal officials in the shire. This was directed particularly at the sheriff, William Crowmer, and his father-in-law, Lord Say, who as Sir James Fiennes had been sheriff in Say had been Treasurer since , so the attacks on him link local grievances with general hostility to the court. At these the jurors accused various officials, particularly those named in the complaint, of extortion, disseisin, forcible detention of goods and fabrication of warrants of arrest for the purpose of extorting money The rebels also secured support in London from opponents of the court party. His house was sacked during the revolt, and he himself was discharged from office; although he lived for almost twenty years more, he was not reappointed. A number of those involved were artisans from the Kentish towns, some of whom, particularly those connected with the cloth trade, may have had a special grievance, as a sharp decline in cloth exports after could well have caused local unemployment 66, pp. It is not clear how far there were similar local grievances to those of the Kentishmen in some of the other shires which were involved in the revolt, notably Sussex and Surrey, although it is probable that the resentment of the citizens of Salisbury at the powers which the bishop

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exercised there may have been one factor behind the murder of Ayscough 7; , pp. As a leader, Cade was able to maintain discipline among his men, at least until they reached London, and his success in defeating the force sent against him argues that he possessed some military capacity. Possibly there was some breakdown of control when he entered London, which may well have contributed to a reaction against him on the part of the citizens. As in there was no specific disloyalty to the King - hatred was concentrated on his advisers. This raises a further problem, whether or not there was, as some Tudor writers believed, Yorkist influence behind the rising. Indeed he was pardoned under that name, and the discovery that it was a false one provided an additional pretext for its revocation. It is worth spending considerable time in examining the causes of the rebellion, because they contrast markedly with those of the revolt. Cade and his supporters had no constructive programme for social reform, and appeared to be unconcerned about questions of servile status or land rents. Such economic grievances as existed were probably prompted by such immediate issues as the slump in the cloth industry rather than by long-term agrarian questions. The major grievances were political, although not necessarily dynastic, and reflected discontent at the abuse of power by the men who controlled the government. The rising, the most extensive popular movement between and the sixteenth century, was relatively limited in its aims and was certainly not directed at the overthrow of the social order. A late and rather unreliable source also explained some of the northern discontent in as the result of the demands of the Hospital of St Leonard at York for payments of sheaves from the northern counties 13, p. But neither of these cases really proves the existence of strong agrarian unrest; both show that local discontent could be drawn into the political struggles of contending dynasties and their magnate supporters. Two risings under Henry VII followed attempts to levy taxes; in the earl of Northumberland lost his life at the hands of a force of rebellious Yorkshiremen when he was trying to collect the subsidy granted that year, and in the levying of a tax for a war with Scotland led to a more serious revolt in Cornwall. According to one account, the Cornishmen felt that the affairs of the North were too remote to interest them. A substantial army marched on London, and although it was defeated, and their leaders put to death, to do so the King had to divert the force which was being prepared for the campaign in Scotland 73, pp

Chapter 3 : The Transformation of Medieval England, by John A.F. Thomson

Transformation of Medieval England , *The Journal of International Studies* 43, not. The basis, All, of this behalf between STS, ANT, and IR is one of Unpacking and including the regulations of online point on a selected issue.

Anglo-Saxon England The kingdom of England emerged from the gradual unification of the early medieval Anglo-Saxon kingdoms known as the Heptarchy: The Viking invasions of the 9th century upset the balance of power between the English kingdoms, and native Anglo-Saxon life in general. During the Heptarchy, the most powerful king among the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms might become acknowledged as Bretwalda , a high king over the other kings. The decline of Mercia allowed Wessex to become more powerful. It absorbed the kingdoms of Kent and Sussex in The kings of Wessex became increasingly dominant over the other kingdoms of England during the 9th century. In , Northumbria submitted to Egbert of Wessex at Dore , briefly making Egbert the first king to reign over a united England. In , Alfred the Great retook London, which he apparently regarded as a turning point in his reign. The dominions of Cnut the Great " England has remained in political unity ever since. This continued for 26 years until the death of Harthacnut in June The Kingdom of England was once again independent. Norman conquest of England The peace lasted until the death of the childless Edward in January His brother-in-law was crowned King Harold , but his cousin William the Conqueror , Duke of Normandy, immediately claimed the throne for himself. William launched an invasion of England and landed in Sussex on 28 September Harold and his army were in York following their victory against the Norwegians at the Battle of Stamford Bridge 25 September when the news reached him. He decided to set out without delay and confront the Norman army in Sussex so marched southwards at once, despite the army not being properly rested following the battle with the Norwegians. The armies of Harold and William faced each other at the Battle of Hastings 14 October , in which the English army, or Fyrd , was defeated, Harold and his two brothers were slain, and William emerged as victor. William was then able to conquer England with little further opposition. He was not, however, planning to absorb the Kingdom into the Duchy of Normandy. As a mere duke, William owed allegiance to Philip I of France , whereas in the independent Kingdom of England he could rule without interference. He was crowned on 25 December in Westminster Abbey , London. High Middle Ages[edit] Further information: In doing so, he annexed what is now the county of Cumbria to England. This final cession established what would become the traditional borders of England which have remained largely unchanged since then except for occasional and temporary changes. This area of land had previously been a part of the Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria. Lothian contained what later became the Scottish capital, Edinburgh. This arrangement was later finalised in by the Treaty of York. King John signs Magna Carta at Runnymede in , surrounded by his baronage. Up until the Norman conquest of England, Wales had remained for the most part independent of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms , although some Welsh kings did sometimes acknowledge the Bretwalda. Soon after the Norman conquest of England , however, some Norman lords began to attack Wales. They conquered and ruled parts of it, acknowledging the overlordship of the Norman kings of England but with considerable local independence. Over many years these " Marcher Lords " conquered more and more of Wales, against considerable resistance led by various Welsh princes, who also often acknowledged the overlordship of the Norman kings of England. Edward I defeated Llywelyn ap Gruffudd , and so effectively conquered Wales, in Accordingly, this was a highly significant moment in the history of medieval England, as it re-established links with the pre-Saxon past. These links were exploited for political purposes to unite the peoples of the kingdom, including the Anglo-Normans, by popularising Welsh legends. The Welsh language "derived from the British language , continued to be spoken by the majority of the population of Wales for at least another years, and is still a majority language in parts of the country. Late Middle Ages[edit] Further information: Though the English won numerous victories, they were unable to overcome the numerical superiority of the French and their strategic use of gunpowder weapons. England was defeated at the Battle of Formigny in and finally at the

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Battle of Castillon in , retaining only a single town in France, Calais. This was a consequence of sustained hostility to the increasingly nationalist French, whose kings and other leaders notably the charismatic Joan of Arc used a developing sense of French identity to help draw people to their cause. The Anglo-Normans became separate from their cousins who held lands mainly in France and mocked the former for their archaic and bastardised spoken French. English also became the language of the law courts during this period. The kingdom had little time to recover before entering the Wars of the Roses , a series of civil wars over possession of the throne between the House of Lancaster whose heraldic symbol was the red rose and the House of York whose symbol was the white rose , each led by different branches of the descendants of Edward III. The end of these wars found the throne held by the descendant of an initially illegitimate member of the House of Lancaster, married to the eldest daughter of the House of York: They were the founders of the Tudor dynasty , which ruled the kingdom from to Tudor period , Elizabethan era , Stuart period , and English Renaissance Wales retained a separate legal and administrative system, which had been established by Edward I in the late 13th century. The country was divided between the Marcher Lords , who gave feudal allegiance to the crown, and the Principality of Wales. Wales was incorporated into the Kingdom of England, and henceforth was represented in the Parliament of England. Portrait of Elizabeth I made to commemorate the defeat of the Spanish Armada , depicted in the background. This had the effect of aligning England with Scotland, which also gradually adopted a Protestant religion, whereas the most important continental powers, France and Spain, remained Roman Catholic. Calais , the last remaining continental possession of the Kingdom, was lost in , during the reign of Philip and Mary I. By , her new navy was strong enough to defeat the Spanish Armada , which had sought to invade England to put a Catholic monarch on the throne in her place. Early Modern history[edit] Main articles: James I ascended the throne of England and brought it into personal union with the Kingdom of Scotland. Despite the Union of the Crowns , the kingdoms remained separate and independent states: Civil War and Interregnum[edit] Cromwell at Dunbar. Oliver Cromwell united the whole of the British Isles by force and created the Commonwealth of England. The Stuart kings overestimated the power of the English monarchy, and were cast down by Parliament in and Henceforth, the monarch could reign only at the will of Parliament. The monarchy and the House of Lords were abolished, and so the House of Commons became a unitary legislative chamber with a new body, the Council of State becoming the executive. However the Army remain the dominant institution in the new republic and the most prominent general was Oliver Cromwell. The Commonwealth fought wars in Ireland and Scotland which were subdued and placed under Commonwealth military occupation. In April Cromwell and the other Grandees of the New Model Army , frustrated with the members of the Rump Parliament who would not pass legislation to dissolve the Rump and to allow a new more representative parliament to be elected, stopped the Rumps session by force of arms and declared the Rump dissolved. Under the Instrument of Government executive power lay with a Lord Protector an office be held for life of the incumbent and there were to be triennial Parliaments, with each sitting for at least five months. The Instrument of Government was replaced by a second constitution the Humble Petition and Advice under which the Lord Protector could nominate his successor. Cromwell nominated his son Richard who became Lord Protector on the death of Oliver on 3 September Restoration and Glorious Revolution[edit] Main articles: Restoration England and Glorious Revolution Richard proved to be ineffectual and was unable to maintain his rule. He resigned his title and retired into obscurity. The Rump Parliament was recalled and there was a second period where the executive power lay with the Council of state. But this restoration of Commonwealth rule similar to that before the Protectorate, proved to be unstable, and the exiled claimant, Charles II , was restored to the throne in Following the Restoration of the monarchy in , an attempt by James II to reintroduce Roman Catholicismâ€”a century after its suppression by the Tudorsâ€”led to the Glorious Revolution of , in which he was deposed by Parliament. Union with Scotland[edit] In the Scottish case, the attractions were partly financial and partly to do with removing English trade sanctions put in place through the Alien Act The English were more anxious about the royal succession. The death of William III in had led to the accession of his sister-in-law Anne to the

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thrones of England and Scotland, but her only surviving child had died in , and the English Act of Settlement had given the succession to the English crown to the Protestant House of Hanover. Securing the same succession in Scotland became the primary object of English strategic thinking towards Scotland. By , the Union of the Crowns was in crisis, with the Scottish Act of Security allowing for the Scottish Parliament to choose a different monarch, which could in turn lead to an independent foreign policy during a major European war. The English establishment did not wish to risk a Stuart on the Scottish throne, nor the possibility of a Scottish military alliance with another power. A Treaty of Union was agreed on 22 July , and following the Acts of Union of , which created the Kingdom of Great Britain , the independence of the kingdoms of England and Scotland came to an end on 1 May . The Acts of Union created a customs union and monetary union and provided that any "laws and statutes" that were "contrary to or inconsistent with the terms" of the Acts would "cease and become void". At this point England ceased to exist as a separate political entity, and since then has had no national government. The laws of England were unaffected, with the legal jurisdiction continuing to be that of England and Wales , while Scotland continued to have its own laws and law courts. Historic counties of England , List of earldoms , Domesday Book , County palatine , English county histories , and English feudal barony The counties of England were established for administration by the Normans , in most cases based on earlier shires established by the Anglo-Saxons. They ceased to be used for administration only with the creation of the administrative counties in . The last such, the County Palatine of Durham , did not lose this special status until the 19th century. Although all of England was divided into shires by the time of the Norman conquest, some counties were formed considerably later, up to the 16th century. Because of their differing origins the counties varied considerably in size. The county boundaries were fairly static between the 16th century Laws in Wales acts and the Local Government Act . Feudal baronies became perhaps obsolete but not extinct on the abolition of feudal tenure during the Civil War , as confirmed by the Tenures Abolition Act passed under the Restoration which took away Knights service and other legal rights. Tenure by knight-service was abolished and discharged and the lands covered by such tenures, including once-feudal baronies, were henceforth held by socage i. The English Fitzwalter Case ruled that barony by tenure had been discontinued for many years and any claims to a peerage on such basis, meaning a right to sit in the House of Lords , were not to be revived, nor any right of succession based on them. It assumed the lands held by the Princes of Gwynedd under the title " Prince of Wales " as legally part of the lands of England, and established shire counties on the English model over those areas. The Marcher Lords were progressively tied to the English kings by the grants of lands and lordships in England. It was abolished in . The Acts had the effect of annexing Wales to England and creating a single state and legal jurisdiction, commonly referred to as England and Wales. At the same time the Council of Wales was created in , a Council of the North was set up for the northern counties of England. After falling into disuse, it was re-established in and abolished in . A very short-lived Council of the West also existed for the West Country between and

Chapter 4 : Transformation Of Medieval England , The

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Identity[edit] Very little is known about the identity and origins of Jack possibly John Cade. Given that the rebel leader did not leave behind any personal documents and the use of aliases was common among rebels, historians are forced to base their claims on rumour and speculation. According to Mark Antony Lower , Jack or John Cade was probably born in Sussex between and and historians agree for certain that he was a member of the lower ranks of society. During the rebellion of , Cade took on the title of "Captain of Kent" and adopted the alias John Mortimer. At the time of the rebellion the Duke of York was in exile in Ireland; as of yet no evidence has been found indicating that he was involved in funding or inciting the uprising. It is more likely that Cade used the name Mortimer as propaganda to give his cause more legitimacy. It is not known whether Cade himself chose the name or not. Another rumour suggested that he enjoyed dabbling in the dark arts and had once worked for Sir Tomas Dacres before fleeing the country after murdering a pregnant woman. Years of war against France had caused the country to go into debt and the recent loss of Normandy caused morale to decline and led to a widespread fear of invasion. Already the coastal regions of England such as Kent and Sussex were seeing attacks by Norman soldiers and French armies. Ill-equipped by the government, English soldiers took to raiding towns along the route to France with their victims receiving no compensation. At the heart of the corruption scandal was the Duke of Suffolk. Tired of the exploitation that the Duke of Suffolk had come to represent, the commons of Kent led by Jack Cade marched on London. It is estimated that about 5, people took part in the uprising. The manifesto represented not only the grievances of the people but of several MPs , lords and magnates as well. The document included a list of fifteen complaints and five demands to be brought before the king for scrutiny and dictated the causes of the revolt. Despite the well-known anger of the peasants towards the Duke, the Bill of Complaints dismissed the idea that the rebels were responsible. In addition the rebels called for inquires into cases of corruption within local and national governments and for the removal of corrupt high officials. Furthermore, in , Saye was appointed to the prestigious office of lord treasurer. Isle and Slegge also served as sheriffs and MPs in the county of Kent. Rebellion[edit] In May , the rebels began to join together in an organized fashion and began to move towards London. Cade sent out delegates to the surrounding counties to elicit aid and additional men. They were mostly peasants but their numbers were swelled by shopkeepers, craftsmen, and some landowners the list of pardoned shows the presence of one knight, two MPs and eighteen squires. Several soldiers and sailors returning via Kent from the French wars also joined in the fray. In the skirmish on 18 June , the two Stafford brothers were killed. Cade took the expensive clothing and armour of Sir Humphrey as his own. Gaining confidence through their victory the rebels advanced to Southwark , at the southern end of London Bridge. Cade set up headquarters in The White Hart inn before crossing the bridge and entering the city with his followers on 3 July To prevent any infringement on his comings and goings within the city Cade cut the ropes on the bridge so that they could not be raised against him. He struck the stone with his sword and declared himself Lord Mayor in the traditional manner. By striking the stone, Cade had symbolically reclaimed the country for the Mortimers to whom he claimed to be related. Upon being found guilty of treason he was taken to Cheapside and beheaded. The heads of the two men were put on pikes and unceremoniously paraded through the streets of London while their bearers pushed them together so that they appeared to kiss. The battle lasted until eight the next morning, when the rebels retreated with heavy casualties. One writer estimated that at least 40 Londoners and rebels were killed at the battle. Although Henry VI had issued pardons to Cade and his followers, a proclamation written by the king shortly after the rebellion voided all previously issued pardons. In the document the King claimed that he revoked the previous pardons because they had not been created or approved by the Parliament. A reward of marks was promised to whomever could capture and deliver Jack Cade to the king,

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dead or alive. His limbs were sent throughout Kent to various cities and locations that were believed to have been strong supporters of the rebel uprising. The search took place in and around areas where support for the uprising was felt to be the strongest – Blackheath, Canterbury and the coastal areas of Faversham and the Isle of Sheppey. The inquiries by bishops and justices were so thorough that in Canterbury the first area searched by the royal commission eight followers were quickly found and hanged. Inspired by Cade and his rebellion many other counties in England revolted. It is possible the animosity felt by the men of Sussex had arisen in part because the king had revoked the pardons issued to Cade and his followers. These large battles over the crown of England would result in the end of the Lancaster dynasty and the creation of the Yorks. The weakness of the Lancaster dynasty and the English government had been exposed. A monument dedicated to Cade has been placed along the roadside. The monument states that on this location the rebel leader Jack Cade was captured and killed by Alexander Iden.

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