



Towards the Magna Charta

From William I to John Lackland





A New Kingdom

- In 1066, the result of William's conquest was a **whole** new kingdom:



ENGLAND

NORMANDY

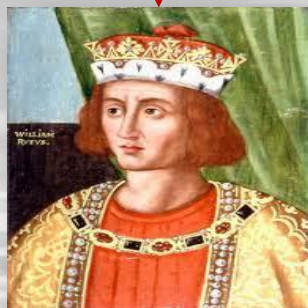


One ruler





William the Conqueror



William II



Henry I



Robert of Normandy Richard of Normandy





A Matter of Dynasty



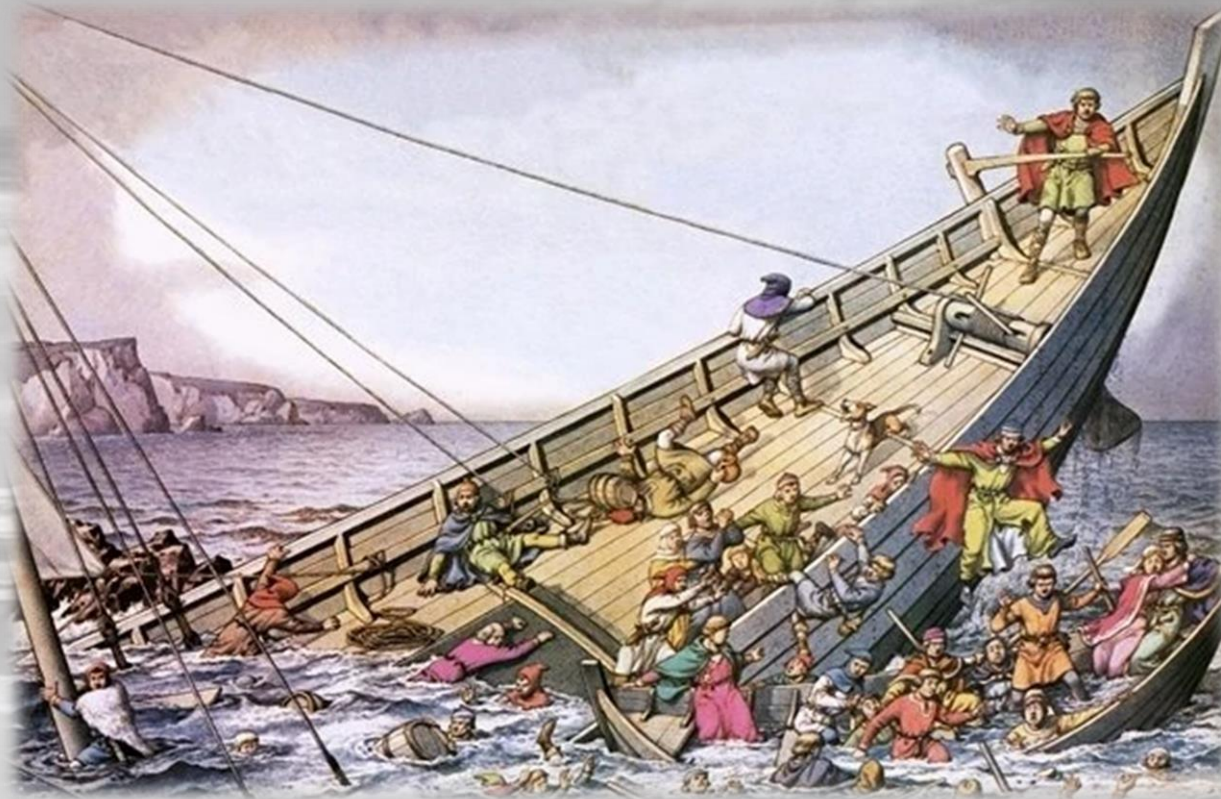
- After William died, fighting broke out amongst his children on how they should divide the kingdom.
- One son, Henry I, managed to secure all the power and **keep the kingdom united**.
- In order to prevent future turmoil, he named his only legitimate son, William Adelin.

BUT.....





- William's boat sank in 1120, and the prince died.
- Henry's succession plan was in crisis .
- He started looking around for a new heir and his choice fell on.....





...his daughter Matilda, that is :
a woman.

- A woman on the throne needed a man.
- She married Geoffrey Plantagenet, but it was an **unpopular marriage** as he was from Anjou, a **rivalry** of Normandy.
- Henry had the English nobles swear oaths of allegiance to Matilda.
- The English nobility saw Matilda as **haughty** and **arrogant.**
- Discontent arouse.





HOUSE OF BLOIS.
—
STEPHEN.



- While the pair were in France , Henry's nephew, Stephen of Blois, **seized the throne** and named himself king.
- He had the support of the noblemen and the citizen of London.
- At that point Stephen and his cousin Matilda were at war.
- Unable to build/keep political relationship, he had alienated the support he had.
- Matilda invaded in 1139 with the help of her half-brother Robert of Gloucester.





No Winners

Neither Stephen nor Matilda were able to prevail

HENCE



- The **CROWN** lost prestige and authority
- The **BARONS** gained MORE POWER





The New Agreement

It was agreed that Stephen would keep the crown until his death

BUT

Henry of Anjou (Matilda's son) would then succeed him



HENRY II
PLANTAGENET
(r. 1153-1189)





The End of the Anarchy

The years between the death of Henry I and the crowning of Henry II were called: «**The Anarchy**»



Henry I



Henry II





Henry the Reformer

- Henry wanted to give **new strength** to **royal power** after years of anarchy

HOW?

Reducing the power of barons



SCUTAGE



In substitution of the traditional **military service** they owed to the king, knights and barons could pay him a sum of **money**



The king could use the money to hire mercenaries and become more militarily **independent**





Henry's System of Justice

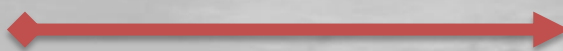
- **Travelling judges** sent to the counties

COMMON LAW



Based on:

- Custom
- Comparison
- Previous cases and decisions



Why Common?



Because it was used everywhere

It is still in use today!!





Henry and the Church

- **REDUCTION** of the **POWER** of the **CHURCH**



CONSTITUTIONS OF CLARENDON (1164)



Members of the clergy who committed crimes were to be judged by the King's Court first, then by the ecclesial court



It reduced the Church's privileges, and extended royal control over it





Thomas Beckett



- Archbishop of Canterbury
- Formerly the King's Chancellor and friend
- Sided with the Pope against the Constitutions of Clarendon.
- He was exiled.
- Once back after 4 years he was killed at Canterbury cathedral by four of the King's knights
- The king denied to be the mandator
- His murder strenghtened the Church and the laws repealed
- Miracles were attributed to him after his death





Henry and France



Thanks to his Angevin origins,
Henry II was also lord of vast
territories in France





Henry II



Richard I «the LionHeart»



John I «Lackland»





Two Different Brothers

- Richard spent most of his reign abroad, fighting wars (very popular)
- When Richard died in 1199, the barons chose his brother John as King
- John soon became extremely unpopular
- Despite expensive military campaigns, he lost most French territories
- Because of excessive taxations the barons rebelled
- John was forced to sign a document that shaped the history of England:

MAGNA CARTA LIBERTATUM
1215





But this is
another
story and.....

..one of the most
important
chapters of
English History!

See U!!

