

Introduction

The aim of that research is to identify the influence of other countries on English culture in the course of history. It means that English culture was containing or even it still contains parts of culture of other countries. Goals of this work are to learn more about the history of English kingdom and to find out more about the influence on England by other countries.

Creation of English Kingdom. Invasion of the Vikings

It's worth starting research with the creation of English kingdom. In the first, England was created as an union of several countries under the rule of Alfred the Great. He was king of Wessex (Kingdom of the West Saxons) one of seven kingdoms which were formed as a result of the arrival of Angles, Saxons and Jutes in the VI century. Alfred was called the first king of England.

It was the beginning of the difficult path of the country which we know today as Great Britain. Invasion of vikings was the first trial on this path. Their first attack on English soil was recorded on June 8, 793 years on the monastery of St. Cuthbert. In 865 they landed on the British isles and sent troops to the conquest of England. According to Norse sagas, it was revenge for the death of their leaders' father. In 866 Kingdom of Northumbria was conquered by invaders. In 870 they conquered the East of England. In 874 was conquered the Kingdom of Mercia. Vikings elected Guthrum as a king of the East of England. In 876 he started a takeover campaign of the south part of England. Alfred paid off and the entire following winter he was preparing for war. In 877 he moved forward and surrounded the army of vikings. Hunger and despair forced to capitulate and swore on the Holy bracelet smeared with blood not to attack possessions of the king. But it was just a mockery and in 878 vikings took advantage of that. They resumed the war. People were paralyzed by fear and abandoned the king. Alfred fled. But he didn't plan to stop resisting. He gathered a small squad and began attacks against the vikings through some time.

He decided to attack the main camp of them after 6 months. But first he dressed as a wandering musician and explored their camp. When he returned, he gathered an army for the battle. Enemy forces were defeated. It was expressed by historians as "... he was being the Lord of the place of slaughter...". Guthrum was required to leave Wessex and accept baptism. But Alfred didn't have enough power to win the war. So Alfred and Guthrum divided England between themselves.

In 890 the new leader of vikings was elected. It was Hastings. He didn't want to keep a peace with England and in 893 he invaded it. But for this time Alfred was ready and forced enemies to return with a defeat. In 894 he began to counter-attack and forced vikings to leave isles. They tried to attack with the ships but Alfred was ready for that too. British isles were saved. In conclusion I'd like to point out that the invasion of vikings caused a lot of changes in England. To resist a threat they needed to adopt and become strong. It led to the development of military affairs. English kingdom began to coexist as a whole united country. England began to raise its navy fleet. Alfred the Great was called the great.

Norman England

The following period of influence on England that pushed it to greatness was its conquest by the duke of Normandy William the Bastard. Later he would be called William the Conqueror. It started when French duke drew attention to England and tried to invade it. In the battle of Hastings in 1066 the king of Anglo-Saxon was killed, which was rare for that time. Sister of the killed king recognised the claims of William. He took under his control the ancient capital of the Anglo-Saxon rulers - Winchester. William divided its territory into 60215 land counties, dividing them among his vassals. The specificity of the distribution of landholdings was the fact that all barons received separate fiefs scattered across the country. It would ensure later the superiority of the king

over the barons. final subjections of barons were finished to 1070-1075. But before that Norman possessions were under threat. In 1071 in Flanders rebellion broke out and Robert Freese came to power. He was hostile to Normandy. In Anjou, Fulk IV put forward the claim of the county of Maine, which was subject of Normandy (Later Maine remained under the authority of the son of William - Robert Curthose, but at the same time the suzerainty of the count of Anjou). Conquest had a large influence on the development of English culture and language. The language of government became French.

The ancient Anglo-Saxon government was destroyed. It was replaced by the centralized feudal monarchy with a strong royal authority, based on European culture. Development of the country was growing fast. It allowed England in a short time to become one of the strongest countries in Europe. After his death, the Anglo-Norman monarchy was divided between his sons. William II Rufus sat down to reign in England, and Robert in Normandy.

The Hundred Years' War

To the XIII century English king owned almost half of France, while at the same time he was formally vassal of French crown. It was one of the reasons for the confrontation between these two countries. This culminated in the Hundred Years' War. Background of the war was the dispute over Gascony, which was in the ownership of France, but actually it was ruled by England. In 1333 it was the start of the war between England and Scotland. Philip, King of France decided to take the opportunity and annexed Gascony. But England successfully won the war and didn't want to put up with the arrogance of France. The hostility between England and France escalated to the limit. In 1337 Edward, King of England attacked the region of France - Picardy. But the cost of an army outside the country led to the bankruptcy of the England treasury. It was a hard smash of the prestige of Edward. France hired Genoa's

teams therefore had superiority at sea. Edward was afraid of invasion by the French army on the British isles and had to spend more money. But in 1340 at the battle of Sluis with the help of Flanders (Ally of England in that war) English fleet defeated the enemy. England was domineering over the sea until the end of the war.

In 1341 it was the beginning of the war for Breton heritage. Edward supported Jean de Montfort and Philip supported Karl de Blois.

The next few years war continued in Brittany. In 1346 war returned to France when Edward crossed the English Channel and took the town just for one day. The French command was confused. They were expecting a long standing defence of the city. In August battle of Crecy took place. This battle showed professionalism and modernity of English army. Their longbows were reigning over French crossbows. More than that first cannons scared to death. The power of French army was in its cavalry, but a lot of English fortifications didn't even give them the opportunity to come close to English army. Rain arrows didn't stop for a minute. The French army made 16 attempts, but no one of them was successful. Son of Edward Black Prince took part in this battle. When he was surrounded, his father refused to send him help. King said that his son has to become a knight by himself. At nightfall Philip gave an order to retreat.

One more of the most famous events of this war was the Battle of Thirty. The formal reason for it was to break the truce by the captain of Ploermel castle in the county under the command of the French commander. Sides agreed to meet "At the oak Mi-Voie"(halfway). Every side has 30 thirty soldiers. During the battle the French squire Guillaume de Montauban, saw that they are losing. He escaped from the field, took the horse and attacked Englishmen from behind. Finally French side has won. This battle had no political influence, but has become a symbol of honor and knightly behavior(except French squire). In 1356 England restored the budget and the 30-thousand army under the command of the Black Prince defeated the French

at the battle of Poitiers. King of France John II the Good was captured. The Treaty of London was signed in 1359. John II got freedom. His son was sent to England as a guarantor, so that his father wouldn't escape. First stage of the war has ended. England has acquired half of Brittany, Aquitaine, Calais, Poitiers and several vassals of France. Edward abandoned the right to the French crown.

When the son of John II fled, Father followed honor and back into captivity. He died in 1364. Charles V became the next king of France after his death. France declared war on England in 1369. Charles wanted to return the occupied territories. Next year with the support of France Enrique II took the throne of Castilia and joined Charles in the war against England. The Dukes of Brittany have shown loyalty to France. One Breton knight Bertand Duguesclin even became a constable (Marshal of France). During the war he followed a cautious "Fabian" strategy. It helped him to make many cities free. In 1372 at the battle of La Rochelle, the Franco-Castilian fleet won. With the death of Edward and his son Black Prince, Richard II took the English throne. Bertand Duguesclin died in 1380.

There was a new threat in England: English army was defeated by Scottish. England and France agreed to a truce due to the exhaustion of both sides. At this time Charles went mad. Henry IV deposed Richard in England. Soon, In England and in France began confusions and rebellions. England was struggling with Scotland. But in 1402 Scottish army was defeated by English one. It caused negotiations between these two countries.

In 1415 England reverted to the plans of intervention in France. In the same year was the battle of Agincourt. England was using a lot of riflemen with heavy infantry. Superior French forces were defeated. Henry conquered a large part of Normandy. He made an alliance with the Duke of Burgundy, who captured Paris and conquered approximately half of the territory of France. In 1420 began negotiations with Charles VI. Henry was appointed heir to the King of France. (Under this treaty, the kings of England bore the title of kings of

France until 1801) The next year Henry went to Paris, where the treaty was officially confirmed. But it was the end of Henry's success. The Scottish army, which included six thousands of soldiers, arrived in France. In 1421 English army was defeated by the combined Franco-Scottish army. A year later Henry died. His year-old son was immediately crowned as a King of England and France. In 1423 at the battle of Cravant French army was defeated. Result of this was the rupture of direct links between Picardy and the south of France.

In 1428 to fully conquer France, England had enough to connect the occupied northern France with Aquitaine. The last obstacle remained Orleans. The garrison town had more armies than English one but they lost hope and couldn't do anything. Savior of the city was Joan of Arc, who arrived to help in charge of the army. The news that the army led by the messenger of God caused an unusual moral rise in the army. Siege failed. Next moves of French army were quickly, decisively and successfully, But in 1430 as a result of betrayal, she was captured by Burgundians and sold to England for 10 000 gold livery. In 1431 Joan of Arc was burned alive. But it already couldn't influence the war. In 1435 Burgundians took the side of France. French commanders, repeating the strategy Duguesclin liberated city after city. The French army began to gain victory after victory. In 1453 at the battle of Castillon ended the Hundred Years' War. England had lost almost all his possessions in France.

But during the war the lower and upper chambers were formed. English started to become more important than the French. Also military affairs were highly developed, the first permanent army was created, there were conditions for the development of firearms.

Wars of the Roses

In 1455 the reasons for failures in the Hundred Years' War caused dissatisfaction in society. Richard of York took advantage and began the March

on London. It caused the start of the civil war between the House of York and the House of Lancaster. The first open battle was the battle of St. Albans, which was won by Richard. After this parliament declared Richard protector and heir of Henry VI. However, in 1460 at the battle of Wakefield Richard died. Edward IV was crowned. As a result of following battles was Lancastrian defeat. King Henry and Queen Margaret fled the country. But soon the king was caught and imprisoned in the tower. Struggling resumed in 1470 when Count of Warwick and Duke of Clarence changed sides and returned Henry to the throne. But soon the Duke of Clarence returned to the side of his brother and the Yorkists won battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury. In these battles Prince Edward and the Count of Warwick were killed. The death of Henry VI was the end of the Lancastrian dynasty. Edward IV took the throne. He was the first king of the Yorkist dynasty, He was reigning peacefully until his death in 1483. After that, the king became his son Edward V. But the royal council declared him illegitimate and was crowned Richard III. In 1485 Henry Tudor landed in Wales with the support of France. French crown provided him with the army and supplies. In the following battle Richard was killed. (It was second time when king died at the battlefield) The most obvious result of this war was the end of Plantagenet dynasty and the rise of the Tudor dynasty. Title “War of the Roses” has not been used during the war. Who exactly has used them for the first time, it’s not known but this term came into use in the XIX century.

Tudor England.

Next of the Tudor rulers was Henry VIII. He is famous for his tyrannical rule, and the actions that made England a more protestant country. Also during his reign England was excommunicated. The formal reason for this was Pope Clement VII's refusal to recognize the marriage of the King to Catherine of Aragon as illegal, so he could marry Anna Boleyn. English bishops were

charged with treason. Parliament decided prohibiting further appeal to the Pope on Church matters. In 1534 adopted the “Act of Supremacy”. In which Henry was proclaimed the Head of the Church of England and already in 1536 and 1539 had a massive secularization of monastic lands. The first victims of this reform have become those who refused to accept the rule of the Act. They were equated with the traitors. Henry during his life had many wives and after a failed marriage to fourth wife, the king began again to favor Catholicism. But later he returned to Protestantism. All these actions led the Church of England to independence of the papacy. After the death of his son, Jane Grey took the throne. At first she didn’t want to take the crown but after John Dudley brought her parents and her husband, who began to press on her, she agreed. On July 10, 1553 she was proclaimed Queen. It began her dramatic reign. She ruled for only 9 days. On the first day council received an ultimatum from Mary, who led an armed rebellion to place her on the throne. Jane accused a rival of wanting to bring the country under the control of the pope. The people of London didn't care about it, when the East of England supported the claim of Mary. Two days later there was a conflict between Jane and the family of John Dudley. When the Lord High Treasurer brought a crown to Jane, inaccurately said that immediately they had to make one more for Gilford(husband of Jane). When Jane answered that she wasn't going to share the throne with him, it led to resistance from Dudley's family. She has understood that she was just a pawn in the plan of her husband. The situation has become critical. John began hiring mercenaries. Jane’s uncle concentrated his army in Bridgett. After another 2 days, many nobles began to take side of Mary. The Privy Council has reduced support for the queen. July 18 Jane announced a set of her own army. The commanders of this army were appointed “Our faithful and beloved cousins.” But the next day, “Cousins” with the help of the Privy Council proclaimed Queen Marry. Londoners welcomed the coup. February 12, 1554 was the execution of the “Queen of the nine days.”

Elizabethan era.

After Mary's death, her sister Elizabeth I immediately took control of the country. Her coronation took place 15 January, 1559(just after the Christmas holidays. She wanted to give her subjects a few holidays.) Its board of time called the "Golden age of England", England of her time became a powerful naval country. 10" February Parliament asked the queen to provide English throne to the heir. The list of candidates included Philip II, who was once married to Mary, Archduke Friedrich, Karl Harsburg, the Swedish Crown Prince Eric, Duke of Anjou and even Ivan the Terrible. Her long standing favorite was Robert Dudley. Their friendship began in early childhood. And when in 1562 the queen fell ill, she appointed him the Lord-Protector. In 1560 the Privy Council forced Elizabeth to start intervention in Scotland, where there was a rebellion against the Protestant Queen-Regent. With the support of England, the rebels defeated the supporters of Mary of Guise and the French army, which supported it. July 6, the Edinburgh agreement was signed. Not long before signing Mary of Guise died. The next queen of Scotland has been suggested to give up her claim to the English crown, but didn't do this. It began enmity of two queens. By the end of 1560 "had risen the star" of Francis Drake. Then there were the causes of future conflict with Spain: English sailors regularly plundered Spanish ships. In 1570 there was no declared war on the seas. Madrid and London have turned a blind eye to the "Private Wars". England gradually took Spanish authority as "The main maritime power'. Spain was unable to suppress rebellion in the Netherlands in 1567. Elizabeth I provided informal support to the rebels. Fearing that France would fall under the control of Habsburgs, she sent the Count of Leicester to the Netherlands with an army. In 1588 the King of Spain, Philip II sent the Great Armada to the British Isles for the invasion of England. He hoped to stop English intervention in the affairs of his country. July 27 Battle of Gravelines took place, during which the Armada

lost several ships and retreated. Then the fleet went around Scotland, where it was caught in a storm. Armada lost approximately half of the ships. Although it is believed that after this victory, England became the first naval power. But it is not so. Spain after the defeat of the armada was able to restore the whole fleet and English fleet became a pitiful sight after Elizabeth's death. During the reign of Elizabeth drama flourished. Also in 1582 Elizabeth was a patron of a company, to which belonged William Shakespeare. March 24, 1603, Elizabeth died in the palace of Richmond, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Stuarts

With the death of Elizabeth, Tudors dynasty was interrupted. It was the start of the dynasty of Stuarts(Scotland dynasty rulers) because James I(In Scotland James VI) was appointed heir by the last English queen. He had plans on how to combine British kingdoms(Scotland and England was under control of James I, but they were not the united country). But it failed due to the resistance of both countries. July 25, 1603 James I was crowned in Westminster Abbey. In 1605 Guy Fawkes(there is a huge variety of writing his name) conspired with the aim of killing the king and the parliament. But his plan failed and Guy and his associates were executed. From that moment began the tradition to celebrate "Guy Fawkes Night". James continued the policy of Elizabeth I: He began colonization of Ireland. There was widespread English law and abolished some Irish traditions. In 1610 there was a proposal for the project of "Great contract" in parliament. There was told about fixed subsidy which king will get every year for the refusal from king's prerogatives. But it was dismissed by parliament. But anyway the king increased the taxes. The indignant House of Commons issued prohibition of introducing religion laws without agreement of parliament. It caused the dissolution of Parliament. James I stayed without the ability to collect the taxes. He decided to sell titles. Especially for this he created a new one — Baronet. But it hasn't helped to

resolve the financial crisis. The Second parliament, which was gathered in 1614, refused to subsidize the King and was dissolved. In 1621 during the Thirty years war was gathered in the third parliament. He agreed to subsidize the King but was required to join the war against Spain, to toughen laws against Catholics and to subordinate foreign policy to Parliament. It was dissolved again. James I didn't want to join the war. He was negotiating about marriage between Charles I and Spanish infanta (Princess). But the Prince of Wales and Buckingham frustrated it. Under the pressure of parliament and the prince, James I declared war on Spain. During the preparation James died. The next king became Charles I, second son of James. His first action was to demand from Parliament a subsidy for the war on the continent. But parliament wanted to solve the first case of illegal ship taxes and questions about religion. Charles twice dissolved the parliament and arbitrarily collected taxes. When he didn't get enough, he was forced to gather parliament and to approve "Petition of Rights". But he was collecting illegal taxes, in spite of petition. It caused outrage in parliament and Charles dismissed it. At this time Thomas Wentworth came up with the plan of introduction of absolute monarchy with the help of a permanent army. The main objective of the policy of Charles was strengthening the power of the king and the Church. In 1625 Charles I issued the "Act of revocation" according to which all the land grants by the kings of Scotland from 1540 were canceled. Also under his pressure Scottish parliament sanctioned the tax for four years ahead. In 1633 he introduced several English canons in Scottish worship. In 1637 a new Liturgy was introduced. All these actions caused rebellion across Scotland. In 1638 In Edinburgh the Scottish aristocracy signed the National Covenant- a Manifesto condemning attempts to reform Presbyterian Church and action of the entire Scottish nation. It was a disaster for the king. He agreed to the convening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Glasgow. Covenanters won the election. As a result, the Assembly abolished all Church reforms and decided to abolish the episcopate. It meant the beginning of

“Bishops’ wars”. At this time a rebellion broke out in Ireland. In 1642 Charles I raised the Royal banner, which started a civil war. On July 14, 1645 a battle took place between the royal army and army of “roundheads” near Nesby. The defeated Charles was imprisoned. Scots found in his bags his dealings with Catholics and the agreement with the Irish. He was held as a prisoner, weaving his promises between the puritans and Presbyterians. In 1647 he was transferred to the English Parliament for 400 000 pounds. He was offered reasonable conditions for the return to power, but Charles was secretly talking with parliament and the Scots, hoping to win more benefits. Incitements to rebellion which he was continuing from the prison led to petitions from all regiments of appointment of the trial. He was found guilty as a tyrant and a traitor. Charles was executed in Whitehall. After this action, the executioner raised the head of the dead king, but the traditional word (“Here is the head of a traitor”) was not pronounced.

Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland. Anglo-Dutch wars.

After the execution of the king Oliver Cromwell became the Lord Protector of the country and in fact the country became a Republic. In 1651 he sent to Hague the delegation with the offer to join the Commonwealth and together conquer Spanish domains. But the Orangemen(Political party in the Netherlands) have set the people against ambassadors. The Angry parliament decided to go to open confrontation. In October the first Navigation Act was adopted, under which all goods must be imported into the country just by English ships or on ships of exporting countries. It wasn't hit hard by the Dutch, but it was a perfect occasion for the English pirates to attack Spanish ships. England began to demand from foreign vessels as a greeting their ships to lower the flag. In 1652 the Dutch Lieutenant-Admiral Maarten Tromp refused to do this and it led to the Dover battle. It was a pretext for war. The war was with varying success, but in a decisive battle Tromp was killed and this led to the defeat of the Dutch. As both sides were exhausted it was a suitable time to start

negotiations. The signed treaty of Westminster had a secret annex, which prohibited Holland from appointing members of the dynasty of Orange to the position of Stadholder (Governor). During the protectorate of England there was a successful foreign policy. English fleet has achieved superiority over the Spanish. Mediterranean Sea was cleared of pirates. Jamaica was captured. But internal policy was cruel. All forms of gambling games were banned, a proven adultery was punishable by death, and the struggle against alcoholism. To distract from this Oliver decided to begin the war against Spain. For this war two squadrons of ships were prepared. One of them was headed by Blake. His task was to lull the vigilance of the Spanish that the second squadron under the command of Penn was able to get to the West-Indies and Spain didn't cancel the departure of the "Silver Fleet". When Blake came to the Mediterranean Sea he went to Tunisia and destroyed the whole fleet which was there. When Penn came to West-Indies, Blake immediately set the blockade of the coast of Spain. Penn united his army with the colonial troops and went to Haiti. But he failed and to come back without results, he decided to conquer Jamaica. It was successful. Only then did England declare war on Spain and unite with France. To avoid the threat of reconquest of Jamaica, England began to contribute to the pirates. For this purpose Port Royal was transformed into a base of pirates. In 1658 United French, Dutch and English armies won the Battle of Dunkirk. At the end of this war Jamaica went to England, but officially it was declared only in 1670. After the death of Oliver in 1658, his son Richard took the post of Lord Protector, but he didn't find success and was dismissed in 1659. In place of the parliament was convened the State Council of top generals and deputies of Long Parliament(who was elected before the period of protectorate). The famous in army George Monk moved his army to London and carried out a coup d'état. The Monk convened the new parliament. The first law of this parliament declared null and void all legal acts of the republic. In this situation the most part of parliament was for the restoration of monarchy. Monk started

negotiations with Prince Charles. On April 25 he was invited to the throne of three kingdoms and proclaimed as Charles II. Later he tried to make his nephew William of Orange III a stadholder. Dreams of English traders to take the first place from the Netherlands caused patriotic enthusiasm. According to Samuel Pepys, the country was “hungry for war”. Holland wanted to take revenge for the defeat in the First Anglo-Dutch war. While in European waters there was peace between these countries, but outside was unofficial war. In 1664 the English Admiral Robert Holmes appeared near the coast of the Dutch possessions in Africa, where he conquered trading posts and some colonies on the Gold Coast. Then in America he conquered New Netherland and renamed it to New York. On the complains of Holland, England answered that it’s a private expedition (although most of the ships were royal) and promised to investigate the matter. But they just continued to arm themselves. Then Holland gave an order to Admiral Ruyter — reconquest lost territories and attack all English merchant ships, but outside European waters. England attacked Spanish ships already near Europe. January 24, 1665 The Netherlands declared war on England. France joined Holland (But in fact it hasn’t helped at all). Holland made conclusions from their last war and issued a decree forbidding trade and fishing during the war. In first battles England was a winner but it didn’t take advantage of it and it led to serious damage to its trade. Four Days’ Battle was a crucial battle of this war. It was the largest battle of the second Anglo-Dutch war. Just after the battle English captains who hadn't seen the finish of the battle (English admiral retreated) claimed that Ruyter retreated first. According to the traditions of that time it was equated to defeat. After that success was on the side of the Netherlands. By September 1666, both sides were exhausted and negotiations started. But it dragged on and Holland decided to force England to peace. Ruyter was ordered to move up the Thames and destroy all their ships and shipyards. It was successful, but later England began to resist this. Peace was concluded on 21 July, 1667. England gained New Netherland in exchange

for Suriname, and made the Navigation Act for the Netherlands. At this time already England wanted revenge. Charles II entered into an alliance with France. In 1672 England declared war and in the first battle was defeated Anglo-French fleet. But France has already won some battles on land. William III was proclaimed Stadholder in Holland, In 1673 the Allied fleet tried to break the Dutch fleet several times, but they failed. After this parliament and public opinion forced Charles to make a piece. Anglo - Dutch wars had a very important role in the development of the art of war at sea. After the death of Charles II, his younger brother James II took the throne. His daughter Marry In spite of this married William III of Orange. After suppression of rebellion he was inspired and planned to replace all main positions on people who aren't of English origin. Relying on the doctrine of unconditional obedience, he set the target to establish a Catholic absolute monarchy. He started advocacy of Catholicism and close alliance with the French king. People were so indignant and due to the ages of the king hoped for a sooner transfer of the power to the Marry, who was a supporter of Protestantism. But when it was announced about the birth of the prince, parliament lost hope of peaceful transfer and invited William III to take the throne. It was the start of the "Glorious revolution" When James II found out about this, he agreed to apply all conditions of people, but it was too late. November 15, 1688 William landed in England. There was on his standard:" The liberties of England and the Protestant religion I will maintain". Absolutely everybody went on his side. James fled to France. In 1689 the parliament proclaimed William and his wife monarchs of England and Scotland. During their reign began the rapid rise of England and transformation into a mighty worldwide country. It was the setting foundation of the political and economic system of the country. Legislative act Bill of Rights was adopted which is fixed for a limitation of the rights of the monarch.

After them the throne was taken by Anna Stuart in 1702. In her first speech, she said: "How do I know my heart - entirely English, I can honestly

assure you that there is nothing that you would expect or desire from me that I am not ready to make for the happiness and prosperity of England” . She immediately became popular among the people. In 1706 began important negotiations to merge Scotland and England. May 1, 1707 the Act of union came into force, and formed a new kingdom — Great Britain.

Conclusion

Originally England was created as a union of the seven countries when Alfred the Great combined them into one. He manfully and wisely defended his country from invasion of Vikings. “True King Alfred” was created, the first collection of laws. The next fundamental period of England was the conquest by William the Bastard (Later — William The Conqueror). Centralized feudal monarchy was replaced with a strong royal authority, based on European culture. Development of the country was growing fast. It allowed England in a short time to become one of the strongest countries in Europe. The language of the ruling class became the Norman dialect of French language. The famous war of England was The Hundred Years’ War. During this war development of the army was rapidly rising. As a result of civil war, which called “Wars of the roses” was changing dynasty of the kings. When the Tudors were reigning, in England it was a Period Renaissance, flourishing of the culture. English church was excommunicated. America was opened and it was the start of colonization . After the death of Elisabeth, English throne was taken by Scotland king — James I. It was the first step to the union of two countries. Tradition to celebrate “Guy Fawkes Night ” was created . In 1653 the ruler of the country became Oliver Cromwell and England became the republic (not for a long time). After his death the monarchy was restored. The following Anglo-Dutch wars influenced the development of English naval fleet. It was a fundamental change and made England “The main maritime power”.

In conclusion I'd like to point out that the foreign countries influenced me the most. During these periods English culture was formed and it was one of the reasons that made England great. England came through difficult times and became one of the worldwide leaders. English people manfully fought for their own country and for their liberty.