The Anglo-Saxon period ended with the defeat of Harold II, King of England by **William “The Conqueror”**, Duke of Normandy, at the Battle of Hastings in **1066 AD**. Changes the entire country forever.

Unlike the previous invasions we have studied, this was a total occupation of the entire country

* Seizure of property
* Martial Law was imposed
* Central Government was established

**Norman** is derived from “North Men” - the Normans were descendants of the Vikings who had seized northern France more than 100 years earlier - the area came to be known as **Normandy**

The Normans and the Anglo-Saxons were, over many years, blended together into what has become the national English character.

**The Feudal System**

A complicated system of land ownership which divided up the land among nobles, barons, lords, etc. - in reality, an elaborate system of loyalties.

In 1086, William published an inventory of all land holdings in the kingdom.

**The Domesday Book** (Doomsday Book)

This, of course, made taxation easier!

Also of great significance during this period was the increased influence of the **Medieval Church** in the lives of everyone, regardless of class.

* Education
* The arts
* Publication (Everything written down)

Latin became the language of the educated classes

England was, in the beginning, a predominantly agrarian society - over time, **herding** became predominant - as a result, England’s woolen industry was born - the increased production of wool eventually encouraged the growth of the cities.

Important during this era was the birth of **common law**, meaning law common to everyone, not just to certain classes - common law brought an end to the practice of **ordeals** - assigned people tasks to determine guilt or innocence

In 1215, the **Magna Carta** was signed by King John - among other things, it established

* Right to trial by jury
* The rule of *habeas corpus* (the right to not be illegally detained)
* The beginnings of representative government in **parliament**

This was the era of the famous religious **Crusades**, which were military excursions into the Holy Land to attempt to free Jerusalem from Turkish control and to Christianize the Arabs - it didn’t work.

What *was* gained from these expeditions was valuable knowledge of Arabic culture, innovations in medicine and mathematics, and the birth of the **Code of Chivalry** - a code of rules for knightly behavior.

**The Hundred Years War (1337-1453)** - a series of wars fought to wrestle French possessions from the English monarchy - this war saw the development of the **longbow**, a weapon capable of piercing through armor!

In truth, the longbow, the development of **gunpowder**, and the **Black Plague** all signaled the beginning of the end of the Medieval age.

**The Wars of the Roses (1455-1485)** - a civil war between the House of York (white rose) and the House of Lancaster (red rose) for the English throne - when Henry tudor defeated King Richard III and was crowned Henry VII, the Medieval period came to an end.