

British/US Culture and Society

Lecture 6 (Pr. EL HADARI)

- ✓ Normans were originally pagan, barbarian, pirates from Denmark, Norway, and Iceland, known for their raids/attacks on European coastal settlements.
- ✓ William the Conqueror and the Normans invaded England in 1066 because they wanted to have a Norman King in England after the death of the Anglo-Saxon one (**Harold II**) at the Battle of Hastings after a few months of his coronation in January 1066.
- ✓ The Normans did such good things as building **the Tower of London**, and many castles like **Dover Castle**.
- ✓ William the Conqueror reigned England from 1066 until his death in 1087. His third son **William II** took over from 1087 until his death 1100. The fourth son **Henry I** reigned from 1100 to 1135. Later on **Stephen of Blois** ruled from 1135 to 1154.

The Plantagenet Dynasty (1154 - 1485):

- The first ruler was **Henry II** who held the throne in 1154. The final ruler was **Richard III** who died in 1485
- Henry II inherited a blood-soaked realm/kingdom from the Normans, but he changed it into an Empire.
- The Plantagenet Dynasty can be divided into three parts:

1) **Angenus (1154-1216):**

The names of the kings were:

- **Henry II** (1154-1189)
 - **Richard I** (1189-1199)
 - **John I** (1199-1216)
- ✓ Henry II ruled England for about 35 years. He was succeeded/followed by his son Richard I who was nicknamed "**Lion Heart**" for his courage and bravery in battles. Richard I had no sons. Thus, the next king was his brother **John I** who was responsible for the **Magna Carta** (great charter). This charter placed England on the road to a democratic country.
 - **Magna Carta** is a charter of freedom and political rights obtained from King John I in 1215. It is also known as the Great charter. This royal charter called for the respect of rights including freedom of religion, elections, and the access to the inheritance for widows, the protection from illegal imprisonment, access to justice and many other rights. The purpose behind Magna Carta was to make peace with rebel barons (barons were members of the lowest grade of nobility).

2) The Plantagenet (1216-1399):

- ✓ Henry II was crowned in 1216 when he was just 9 years old and his reign ended in 1272. He did not take control of England until 1227 at the age of 20 years old. He was captured in 1264 during a civil war. During his reign, Oxford and Cambridge universities were founded. Many cathedrals including **Salisbury cathedral** were built. He was succeeded by his son **Edward I** (1272-1307) who was noted as a castle builder. Then Edward II (1307-1327) took over, followed by Edward III (1327-1377) then Richard II (1377-1399).

3) The Houses of Lancaster and York (1399-1485):

- ✓ Henry IV (1399-1413) was the grandson of Edward III. He came to power by force because he made his cousin Richard II abdicate (renounce the throne) he was succeeded by his son Henry V (1413-1422). This king was just 14 years old when he fought in his first battle. He died at the age of 35 years old. His son, Henry VI (1422-1471), came to power at the age of 9 months. This king set a record as the youngest ever King of England. During the first years of his reign, his uncle and others governed for him. In 1422 he became the king of France after the death of Charles VI king of France at that time.
- ✓ The French people didn't accept the idea of being ruled by an English King. In 1429, a French peasant girl named **Joan of Arc** led the French armies to many victories against the English. But she was captured and charged for being a witch and she was burnt alive.
- ✓ We cannot talk about the House of Lancaster and the House of York without talking about the **Wars of Roses**. They were called the Wars of Roses because the symbol of Lancaster House was a red rose and the symbol of York House was a white rose. The House of Lancaster and the House of York were royal families who fought over the throne. These wars started when many barons hated the way of Lancaster family got the power because the first king got the throne by force. According to them, the York family, cousins of the Lancaster, had the right to rule.
- ✓ In 1461, Edward IV was crowned King. This marked the beginning of government by York House. Edward IV defeated Lancastrians and crowned himself king.
- ✓ The elder son of Edward the IV, Edward V (1483-1485), became the king of England for a very short period of time. Edward V is believed to have been killed with his brother in the Tower of London on the orders of Richard III.

The Tudors (1485 - 1603):

Tudor Kings and Queens were:

- **Henry VII** (1485-1509)
- **Henry VIII** (1509-1547)

- **Edward VI** (1547-1553)
- **Lady Jane** (1553)
- **Mary I** (1553-1558)
- **Elizabeth I** (1558-1603)

- ✓ These Kings and Queens were constituted a royal family known as the House of Tudor.
- ✓ The Tudors were originally from Wales. They were not exactly of royal origins.
- ✓ The Tudor Dynasty started with a secret marriage between the widow of King Henry V and a royal attendant named Owain Tudor.
- ✓ Royal attendant is an official charged with the care of the horses of princes and nobles in the British royal family.