

British/US culture and society

Lecture 4 (Pr. EL HADARI)

Britain in the Bronze Age:

- ✓ This Age lasted about 700 years. It was preceded by the Stone Age and followed by the Iron Age. It was then a giant step from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.
- ✓ The main activities of the Britain in the Bronze Age were:
 1. Crafting Bronze and copper (Metals/ores).
 2. The act of making and safekeeping artifacts shaped into different tools.
 3. The Bronze Age was known for metal trade.
 4. This period was also marked by immigration. Thus, it was an era of travels/transmissions and transmissions.
 5. This époque was also signatored by the production of dirks (Knives), rapiers (a type of swords) and lances, axes, beakers (cups), vessels and pottery).
- ✓ We cannot talk about the Bronze Age without making a reference to the **Bell Beaker Folk** who descended from the Rhine. These people invaded Britain and settled in it. They are thought have the first to bring Bronze to Britain. They were given the name of **Bell Beaker Folk** because they made special Bell-shaped drinking vessels.
- ✓ In late Bronze Age, textile production was under way. Women would wear skirts and short tunics. Men would put on knee-length skirts as well as tunics and cloaks.

Britain in the Iron Age:

- ✓ This Age begun C.600 BC and lasted until the Roman invasion/conquest of Britain in 43 AD.
- ✓ It is the era in which the knowledge, skills and techniques of Iron making was introduced to Britain mainly by Europeans. This Age was marked by the burgeoning /developing of **metallurgy** (it is the science of extracting metals and modifying them for use).
- ✓ During this Age, the defense technique used to protect/shelter people from the attack's forts with walls/ditches/pits.
- ✓ As said earlier, the Iron Age ended with the invasion of Britain by the Roman in 43 AD.

- ✓ **The Celts** lived in Britain during the Iron Age. They were a developed society because they learned how to make weapons from Iron. They settled in places such as Cornwall and Wales. They were not called the Celts until the beginning of the 18th century. They were divided into three main branches:
 - Brythonic.
 - Gaelic.
 - Gaulic.
- ✓ During the Iron Age people consumed such crops as: **Wheat, barley, beans, flax seeds.**
- ✓ Farmers invented an Iron plough to turn over the land. The name of this Iron plough was an Ard. These ards were another alternative for wooden and bronze ploughs.
- ✓ This Age was also marked by the invention of an **Iron-quern** with the intent to grind grains for flour.
- ✓ The clothes of people during this Age were made from wood.

Main invasions of Britain:

Britain was invaded by many states throughout its history:

The Roman invasion of Britain:

- ✓ The Roman conquest of Britain lasted from 43 AD to 410 AD.
- ✓ The first attempt to invade Britain by the Romans was in C. 55 BC. This attempt was led by a famous Roman leader his name was **Julius Caesar**. His decision to invade Britain was due to different reasons. First of all, he wanted to revenge against the British people who helped the Gaels in France in their fight against the Romans. Another reason was that he needed this invasion **to burnish his reputation** in Rome; especially that Britain was a new land for the Romans. No one from Rome had travelled to Britain before. One more thing, that there was great treasure in Britain and he wanted to find it for himself. This means that there were personal reasons behind this invasion. Still to mention that the climate and geographical location were also attractive. Its soil was good for better agriculture.
- ✓ The first attempt of **Julius Caesar** failed due to the harsh weather conditions. There was big storm which prevented his army from advancing to Britain. It also failed because of the **resistance** of some **British tribes**.

- ✓ The Romans did not return to Britain for about a century.
- ✓ In 43 AD, the second invasion took place. It was led by **Emperor Claudius**; he sent his troops to conquer the country. This conquest was gradual (step by step) and peace meal because these troops were afraid of the tribes living there.
- ✓ In order to frighten/scare the Britons, **Emperor Claudius** sent elephants to Britain. The elephants were not known for the Britons.
- ✓ After the conquest of most of Britain, some peace dominated the country, it was an enforced silence.