

= Article 231 of the Treaty of Versailles =

Article 231 , often known as the War Guilt Clause , was the opening article of the reparations section of the Treaty of Versailles , which ended the First World War between the German Empire and the Allied and Associated Powers . The article did not use the word " guilt " but it served as a legal basis to compel Germany to pay reparations .

Article 231 was one of the most controversial points of the treaty . It specified :

" The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies . "

Germans viewed this clause as a national humiliation , forcing Germany to accept full responsibility for causing the war . German politicians were vocal in their opposition to the article in an attempt to generate international sympathy , while German historians worked to undermine the article with the objective of subverting the entire treaty . The Allied leaders were surprised at the German reaction ; they saw the article only as a necessary legal basis to extract compensation from Germany . The article , with the signatory 's name changed , was also included in the treaties signed by Germany 's allies who did not view the clause with the same disdain as the Germans did . American diplomat John Foster Dulles ? one of the two authors of the article ? later regretted the wording used , believing it further aggravated the German people .

The historical consensus is that responsibility or guilt for the war was not attached to the article . Rather , the clause was a prerequisite to allow a legal basis to be laid out for the reparation payments that were to be made . Historians have also highlighted the unintended damage created by the clause , which caused anger and resentment amongst the German population .

= = Background = =

On 28 June 1914 , the heir to the throne of Austria @-@ Hungary , Archduke Franz Ferdinand , was assassinated by the Bosnian @-@ Serb Gavrilo Princip in the name of Serbian nationalism . This caused a diplomatic crisis resulting in Austria @-@ Hungary declaring war on Serbia and sparking the First World War . Due to a variety of reasons , within weeks the major powers of Europe ? divided into two alliances known as the Central Powers and the Triple Entente ? were at war . As the conflict progressed , additional countries from around the globe were drawn into the conflict on both sides .

Fighting would rage across Europe , the Middle East , Africa and Asia for the next four years . On 8 January 1918 , United States President Woodrow Wilson issued a statement that became known as the Fourteen Points . In part , this speech called for Germany to withdraw from the territory it had occupied , for the creation of a Polish state , the redrawing of Europe 's borders along ethnic lines , and the formation of a League of Nations . During the autumn of 1918 , the Central Powers began to collapse . The German military was decisively defeated on the Western Front , while on the Home Front the navy mutinied prompting uprisings in Germany , which became known as the German Revolution . The German Government attempted to obtain a peace settlement based on the Fourteen Points , and maintained it was on this basis that they surrendered . Following negotiations , the Allied Powers and Germany signed an armistice , which came into effect on 11 November while German forces were still positioned in France and Belgium .

On 18 January 1919 , the Paris Peace Conference began . The conference aimed to establish peace between the war 's belligerents and establish the post @-@ war world . The Treaty of Versailles formed part of the conference , and dealt solely with Germany . The treaty , along with the others that were signed during the conference , were each named after the suburb of Paris they were signed in . While 70 delegates from 26 nations participated in the negotiations representatives from Germany were barred from attending , nominally over fears that a German delegation would attempt to play one country off against the other and unfairly influence the proceedings .

= = Writing of the article = =

The Americans , British , and French all differed on the issue of reparations settlement . The Western Front had been fought in France , and that countryside had been heavily scarred in the fighting . France 's most industrialized region in the north @-@ east had been laid to waste during the German retreat . Hundreds of mines and factories were destroyed along with railroads , bridges and villages . Georges Clemenceau , the Prime Minister of France , thought it appropriate that any just peace required Germany to pay reparations for the damage they had caused . He also saw reparations as a means to ensure that Germany could not again threaten France and as well to weaken the German ability to compete with France 's industrialization . Reparations would also go towards the reconstruction costs in other countries , such as Belgium , also directly affected by the war . British Prime Minister David Lloyd George opposed harsh reparations in favour of a less crippling reparations settlement so that the German economy could remain a viable economic power and British trading partner . He furthermore argued that reparations should include war pensions for disabled veterans and allowances to be paid to war widows , which would , reserve a larger share of the reparations for the British Empire . Wilson opposed these positions , and was adamant that there be no indemnity imposed upon Germany .

During the peace conference the Commission on the Responsibility of the Authors of the War and on Enforcement of Penalties was established to examine the background of the war . The Commission reasoned that the " war was premeditated by the Central Powers ... and was the result of acts deliberately committed [by them] to make it unavoidable " , concluding that Germany and Austria @-@ Hungary had " deliberately worked to defeat all the many conciliatory proposals made by the Entente Powers and their repeated efforts to avoid war . " This conclusion was duly incorporated into the Treaty of Versailles , led by Clemenceau and Lloyd George who were both insistent on the inclusion of an unequivocal statement of Germany 's total liability . This left Wilson at odds with the other leaders of the conference . Instead , he proposed a repetition of a note sent by United States Secretary of State Robert Lansing to the German Government on 5 November 1918 , stating that the " Allied Governments ... understand that compensation will be made by Germany for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allies and their property by the aggression of Germany ... "

The actual wording of the article was chosen by American diplomats Norman Davis and John Foster Dulles . Davies and Dulles produced a compromise between the Anglo @-@ French and American positions , wording Article 231 and 232 to reflect that Germany " should , morally , pay for all war costs , but , because it could not possibly afford this , would be asked only to pay for civilian damages . " Article 231 , in which Germany accepted the responsibility of Germany and its allies for the damages resulting from the First World War , therefore served as a legal basis for the articles following it within the reparations chapter , obliging Germany to pay compensation limited to civilian damages . Similar clauses , with slight modification in wording , were present in the peace treaties signed by the other members of the Central Powers .

= = Reaction = =

= = = German interpretation = = =

Foreign Minister Count Ulrich von Brockdorff @-@ Rantzau headed the 180 @-@ strong German peace delegation . They departed Berlin on 18 April 1919 , anticipating that the peace talks would soon start and that they and the Allied Powers would negotiate a settlement . Earlier , in February of that year , Brockdorff @-@ Rantzau had informed the Weimar National Assembly that Germany would have to pay reparations for the devastation caused by the war , but would not pay for actual war costs . The German government had also taken the position that it would be " inadvisable ... to elevate the question of war guilt " . On 5 May , Brockdorff @-@ Rantzau was informed that there would be no negotiations . Once the German delegation received the conditions of peace they

would have fifteen days to reply . Following the drafting of the treaty , on 7 May the German and Allied delegations met and the Treaty of Versailles was handed off to be translated and for a response to be issued . At this meeting Brockdorff @-@ Rantzau stated that " We know the intensity of the hatred which meets us , and we have heard the victors ' passionate demand that as the vanquished we shall be made to pay , and as the guilty we shall be punished " . However , he proceeded to deny that Germany was solely responsible for the war . Following the meeting , the German delegation retired to translate the 80 @,@ 000 word document . As soon as the delegation realized the terms of peace , they agreed that they could not accept it without revision . They then proceeded to send their Allied counterparts , message after message attacking each part of the treaty . On 18 June , having disregarded the repeated explicit decisions of the government , Brockdorff @-@ Rantzau declared that Article 231 would have Germany accept full responsibility for the war by force . Max Weber , an advisor with the German delegation , agreed with Brockdorff @-@ Rantzau , also challenging the Allies over the issue of war guilt . He preferred to reject the treaty than submit to what he called a " rotten peace " .

On 16 June , the Allied Powers demanded that Germany unconditionally sign the treaty within seven days or face the resumption of hostilities . The German government was divided on whether to sign or reject the peace treaty . On 19 June , Chancellor Philipp Scheidemann resigned rather than sign the treaty and was followed by Brockdorff @-@ Rantzau and other members of the government , leaving Germany without a cabinet or peace delegation . After being advised by Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg that Germany was in no condition to resume the war , President Friedrich Ebert and the new Chancellor , Gustav Bauer , recommended that the Weimar National Assembly ratify the treaty . The Assembly did so by a large majority , and Clemenceau was informed nineteen minutes before the deadline expired . Germany unconditionally signed the peace treaty on 22 June .

Initially , Article 231 was not correctly translated . Rather than stating " ... Germany accepts responsibility of Germany and her allies causing all the loss and damage ... " , the German Government 's edition read " Germany admits it , that Germany and her allies , as authors of the war , are responsible for all losses and damages ... " . Germans felt that they the country had signed away her honor , and there was a prevailing belief of humiliation as the article was seen , overall , as an injustice . Historian Wolfgang Mommsen commented that despite the public outrage , German government officials were aware " that Germany 's position on this matter was not nearly so favorable as the imperial government had led the German public to believe during the war . "

= = = Allied opinion on article = = =

The Allied delegation initially thought Article 231 to be a mundane addition to the treaty intended to limit German liability with regard to reparations , and were surprised at the vehemence of the German protests . Georges Clemenceau rebuffed Brockdorff @-@ Rantzau 's allegations , arguing that " the legal interpretation [of the article] was the correct one " and not a matter of political question . Lloyd George commented that " the English public , like the French public , thinks the Germans must above all acknowledge their obligation to compensate us for all the consequences of their aggression . When this is done we come to the question of Germany 's capacity to pay ; we all think she will be unable to pay more than this document requires of her . "

Prior to the American entry into the war , Woodrow Wilson called for a " peace of reconciliation with Germany " , what he dubbed a " peace without victory " . His wartime speeches , however , rejected these earlier notions and he took an increasingly belligerent stance towards Germany . Following the war , on 4 September 1919 , during his public campaign to rally American support for the Treaty of Versailles , Wilson commented that the treaty " seeks to punish one of the greatest wrongs ever done in history , the wrong which Germany sought to do to the world and to civilization , and there ought to be no weak purpose with regard to the application of the punishment . She attempted an intolerable thing , and she must be made to pay for the attempt . " Regardless of the rhetoric , the American position was to create a balanced treaty that would appease everyone . Gordon Auchincloss , secretary to Edward M. House (one of Wilson 's advisers) , sent a copy of the clause

to the State Department and stated " you will note that the President 's principles have been protected in this clause " .

Historian William Keylor commented that initially both United States diplomats believed that they had " devised a brilliant solution to the reparation dilemma " ; appeasing both the British and French , as well as Allied public opinion irrespective of the fact that Allied leaders were aware of concerns surrounding German willingness to pay reparations and the disappointment that could follow . Vance C. McCormick (an economic adviser of Wilson) emphasized this point , and stated : " ... the preamble is useful . We are adopting an unusual method in not fixing a definite sum . The preamble tends to explain this , and further , prepares the public mind for disappointment as to what actually can be secured . " In 1940 , Dulles stated that he was surprised that the article " could plausibly be , and in fact was , considered to be a historical judgement of war guilt " . He further noted that the " profound significance of this article ... came about through accident , rather than design " . Dulles took it personally that the Treaty of Versailles failed in its intentions of creating a lasting peace and believed that the treaty was one of the causes of the Second World War . By 1954 , as United States Secretary of State and in discussion with the Soviet Union in regards to German reunification , he commented that " Efforts to bankrupt and humiliate a nation merely incite a people of vigor and of courage to break the bonds imposed upon them Prohibitions thus incite the very acts that are prohibited . "

= = Impact = =

= = = Reparations = = =

Compensation demanded from the defeated party was a common feature of peace treaties . The financial burden of the Treaty of Versailles was labelled " reparations " , which distinguished them from punitive settlements usually known as indemnities . The reparations were intended for reconstruction and as compensation for families who had been bereaved by the war . Sally Marks wrote that the article " was designed to lay a legal basis for reparations " to be paid . Article 231 " established an unlimited theoretical liability " for which Germany would have to pay but the following article " in fact narrowed German responsibility to civilian damages " . When the final reparation figure was established in 1921 , it was based on an Allied assessment of [the] German capacity to pay , not on the basis of Allied claims .

The London Schedule of Payments , of 5 May 1921 , established the full liability of the combined Central Powers at 132 billion gold marks . Of this figure , Germany was only required to pay 50 billion gold marks (\$ 12 @. @ 5 billion) , a smaller amount than they had previously offered for terms of peace . Reparations were unpopular and strained the German economy but they were payable and from 1919 ? 1931 , when reparations ended , Germany paid fewer than 21 billion gold marks . The Reparation Commission and the Bank for International Settlements gave a total German payment of 20 @. @ 598 billion gold marks , whereas historian Niall Ferguson estimated that Germany paid no more than 19 billion gold marks . Ferguson also wrote that this sum was only 2 @. @ 4 per cent of German national income between 1919 and 1932 , while Stephen Schuker places the figure at an average of 2 per cent of national income between 1919 and 1931 , in cash and kind , making a total transfer equal to 5 @. @ 3 per cent of national income for the period . Gerhard Weinberg wrote that reparations were paid , towns were rebuilt , orchards replanted , mines reopened and pensions paid but the burden of repairs was shifted from the German economy to the damaged economies of the victors .

= = = Effects on German political opinion and revisionism = = =

Domestic German opposition to Article 231 has been held to have created a psychological and political burden on the post @-@ war Weimar Republic . German politicians seeking international sympathy would use the article for its propaganda value , convincing many who had not read the

treaties that the article implied full war guilt . German revisionist historians who subsequently attempted to ignore the validity of the clause found a ready audience among ' revisionist ' writers in France , Britain , and the United States . The objective of both the politicians and historians was to prove that Germany was not solely guilty for causing the war ; if that guilt could be disproved the legal requirement to pay reparations would disappear . This subject , the question of Germany 's guilt (Kriegsschuldfrage or war guilt question) became a major theme of Adolf Hitler 's political career .

United States Senator Henrik Shipstead argued that the failure to revise the article became a factor in Hitler 's rise to power . A view held by some historians , such as Tony Rea and John Wright who wrote that " the harshness of the War Guilt Clause and the reparations demands made it easier for Hitler to gain power in Germany . " Despite these views , the historical consensus is that the article and the treaty , did not cause the rise of Nazism but that an unconnected rise in extremism and the Great Depression led to the NSDAP gaining greater electoral popularity and then being maneuvered into office . Fritz Klein wrote that while there was a path from Versailles to Hitler , the former did not make " Hitler 's takeover of power inevitable " and that " the Germans had a choice when they decided to take this path . In other words , they did not have to . Hitler 's victory was not an unavoidable result of Versailles . "

= = Historical assessment = =

In 1926 , Robert C. Binkley and A. C. Mahr of Stanford University , wrote that German accusations of the article assigning war guilt were " ill @-@ founded " and " mistaken " . The article was more " an assumption of liability to pay damages than an admission of war guilt " and compared it with " a man who undertakes to pay all the cost of a motor accident than to the plea of guilty entered by an accused criminal " . They wrote that " it is absurd " to charge the reparation articles of the treaty with any " political meaning " and the legal interpretation " is the only one that can stand " . They concluded that German opposition " is based upon a text which has no legal validity whatsoever , and which Germany never signed at all . " Sidney Fay was the " most outspoken and influential critic " of the article . In 1928 , he concluded that all of Europe shared the blame for the war and that Germany had no intention of launching a general European war in 1914 .

In 1937 , E. H. Carr commented that " in the passion of the moment " the Allied Powers had " failed to realize that this extorted admission of guilt could prove nothing , and must excite bitter resentment in German minds . " He concluded " German men of learning set to work to demonstrate the guiltlessness of their country , fondly believing that , if this could be established , the whole fabric of the treaty would collapse . " René Albrecht @-@ Carrié wrote in May 1940 , that " article 231 gave rise to an unfortunate controversy , unfortunate because it served to raise a false issue . " He wrote that the German inter @-@ war argument " rested on her responsibility for the out @-@ break of the war " and if that guilt could be disproved then the legal requirement to pay reparations would disappear .

In 1942 , Luigi Albertini published *The Origins of the War of 1914* and concluded that Germany was primarily responsible for the outbreak of the war . Albertini 's work , rather than spurring on new debate , was the culmination of the first research phase into the war guilt question . The issue came back between 1959 and 1969 , when Fritz Fischer in *Germany 's Aims in the First World War and War of Illusions* " destroyed the consensus about shared responsibility for the First World War " and " placed the blame ... firmly on the shoulders of the Wilhelmine elite . " By the 1970s , his work " had emerged as the new orthodoxy on the origins of the First World War " . In the 1980s , James Joll led a new wave of First World War research concluding " that the origins of the First World War were " complex and varied " although " by December 1912 " Germany had decided to go to war .

In 1978 , Marks re @-@ examined the reparation clauses of the treaty and wrote that " the much @-@ criticized ' war guilt clause ' , Article 231 , which was designed to lay a legal basis for reparations , in fact makes no mention of war guilt " but only specified that Germany was to pay for the damages caused by the war they imposed upon the allies and " that Germany committed an act of aggression against Belgium is beyond dispute " . " Technically , Britain entered " the war and

French troops entered Belgium " to honor " the " legal obligation " to defend Belgium under the 1839 Treaty of London and that " Germany openly acknowledged her responsibility in regard to Belgium on August 4 , 1914 and May 7 , 1919 . " Marks also wrote that " the same clause , mutatis mutandis " was incorporated " in the treaties with Austria and Hungary , neither of whom interpreted it as declaration of war guilt . " Wolfgang Mommsen wrote that " Austria and Hungary , understandably paid no attention to this aspect of the draft treaty " .

In 1986 , Marks wrote that the German foreign office , supported by military and civilian notables , " focused on Article 231 ... hoping that , if one could refute German responsibility for the war , not only reparations but the entire treaty would collapse " . Manfred Boemeke , Gerald Feldman , and Elisabeth Glaser wrote that " pragmatic requirements characteristically influenced the shaping of the much misunderstood Article 231 . That paragraph reflected the presumed legal necessity to define German responsibility for the war in order to specify and limit the Reich 's obligations " . P.M.H. Bell wrote that despite the article not using the term ' guilt ' , and while " it may be that its drafters did not intend to convey a moral judgement of Germany " , the article has " almost universally " become known as the war guilt clause of the treaty . Margaret MacMillan wrote that the German public 's interpretation of Article 231 as unequivocally ascribing the fault for the war to Germany and her allies , " came to be the object of particular loathing in Germany and the cause of uneasy consciences among the Allies . " The Allies never expected such a hostile reaction , for " no one thought there would be any difficulty over the clauses themselves . "

Stephen Neff wrote that " the term ' war guilt ' is a slight unfortunate one , since to lawyers , the term ' guilt ' primarily connotes criminal liability " while " the responsibility of Germany envisaged in the Versailles Treaty ... was civil in nature , comparable to the indemnity obligation of classical just @-@ war theory . " Louise Slavicek wrote that while " the article was an honest reflection of the treaty @-@ writers ' beliefs , including such a clause in the peace settlement was undiplomatic , to say the least . " Diane Kunz wrote that " rather than being seen as an American lawyer 's clever attempt to limit actual German financial responsibility by buying off French politicians and their public with the sop of a piece of paper " Article 231 " became an easily exploitable open sore " . Ian Kershaw wrote that the " national disgrace " felt over the article and " defeat , revolution , and the establishment of democracy " , had " fostered a climate in which a counter @-@ revolutionary set of ideas could gain wide currency " and " enhanced the creation of a mood in which " extreme nationalist ideas could gain a wider audience and take hold .

Elazar Barkan argues that by " forcing an admission of war guilt at Versailles , rather than healing , the victors instigated resentment that contributed to the rise of Fascism . " Norman Davies wrote that the article invited Germany " to accept sole guilt for the preceding war " . Klaus Schwabe wrote that the article 's influence went far beyond the discussion of war guilt . By " refusing to acknowledge Germany 's ' war guilt ' the new German government implicitly exonerated the old monarchical order " and more importantly failed " to dissociate itself from the old regime . " In doing so " it undermined its claim that post @-@ revolutionary Germany was a historic new democratic beginning deserving credit at the peace conference . "

= Æthelberht II of East Anglia =

Æthelberht (Old English : Æðelbrihte) , also called Saint Ethelbert the King , (died 20 May 794 at Sutton Walls , Herefordshire) was an eighth @-@ century saint and a king of East Anglia , the Anglo @-@ Saxon kingdom which today includes the English counties of Norfolk and Suffolk . Little is known of his reign , which may have begun in 779 , according to later sources , and very few of the coins issued during his reign have been discovered . It is known from the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle that he was killed on the orders of Offa of Mercia in 794 .

He was subsequently canonised and became the focus of cults in East Anglia and at Hereford , where the shrine of the saintly king once existed . In the absence of historical facts , mediaeval chroniclers provided their own details for Æthelberht 's ancestry , life as king and death at the hands of Offa . His feast day is 20 May . Several Norfolk , Suffolk and West Country parish churches are

dedicated to the saint .

= = Life and reign = =

Little is known of Æthelberht 's life or reign , as very few East Anglian records have survived from this period . Mediaeval chroniclers have provided dubious accounts of his life , in the absence of any real details . According to Richard of Cirencester , writing in the fifteenth century , Æthelberht 's parents were Æthelred I of East Anglia and Leofrana of Mercia . Richard narrates in detail a story of Æthelberht 's piety , election as king and wise rule . Urged to marry against his will , he apparently agreed to wed Eadburh , the daughter of Offa of Mercia , and set out to visit her , despite his mother 's forebodings and his experiences of terrifying events (an earthquake , a solar eclipse and a vision) .

Æthelberht 's reign may have begun in 779 , the date provided for the beginning of his reign on the uncertain authority of a much later saint 's life . The absence of any East Anglian charters prevents it from being known whether he ruled as a king or a sub @-@ king under the power of the ruler of another kingdom .

Æthelberht was stopped by Offa of Mercia from minting his own coins , of which only four examples have ever been found . One of these coins , a ' light ' penny , said to have been found in 1908 at Tivoli , near Rome , is similar in type to the coinage of Offa . On one side is the word REX , with an image of Romulus and Remus suckling a wolf : the obverse names both the king and his moneyer , Lul , who struck coins for both Offa and Coenwulf of Mercia . Andy Hutcheson has suggested that the use of runes on the coin may signify " continuing strong control by local leaders " . According to Marion Archibald , the issuing of " flattering " coins of this type , with the intention to win friends in Rome , probably indicated to Offa that as a sub @-@ king , Æthelberht was assuming " a greater degree of independence than he was prepared to tolerate " .

In 793 the vulnerability of the English east coast was exposed when the monastery at Lindisfarne was looted by Vikings and a year later Jarrow was also attacked , events which Steven Plunkett reasons would ensure that the East Anglians were governed firmly . Æthelberht 's claim to be a king descended from the Wuffingas dynasty (suggested by the use of a Roman she @-@ wolf and the title REX on his coins) could be because of a need for strong kingship as a result of the Viking attacks .

= = Death and canonisation = =

Æthelberht was put to death by Offa of Mercia under unclear circumstances ; the site of his murder was apparently the royal vill at Sutton Walls . According to the Anglo @-@ Saxon Chronicle , he was beheaded . Mediaeval sources tell how he was taken captive whilst visiting his future Mercian bride Ælfthryth and was then murdered and buried . In Richard of Cirencester 's account of the murder , which cannot be substantiated , Offa 's evil queen Cynethryth poisoned her husband 's mind until he agreed to have his guest killed . Æthelberht was then bound and beheaded by a certain Grimbert and his body was unceremoniously disposed of . The mediaeval historian John Brompton 's Chronicon describes how the king 's detached head fell off a cart into a ditch where it was found , before it restored a blind man 's sight . According to the Chronicon , Ælfthryth subsequently became a recluse at Crowland and her remorseful father founded monasteries , gave land to the Church and travelled on a pilgrimage to Rome .

The execution of an Anglo @-@ Saxon king on the orders of another ruler was very rare , although public hanging and beheading did occur at this time , as has been discovered at the Sutton Hoo site . Æthelberht 's death at the hands of the Mercians made the possibility of any peaceful union between the Anglian peoples (including Mercia) less likely than before . It led to Mercia 's domination of East Anglia , whose kings ruled over the kingdom for over three decades after Æthelberht 's death .

In 2014 metal @-@ detectorist Darrin Simpson of Eastbourne found a coin minted during the reign of Æthelbert , in a Sussex field . It is believed that the coin may have led to Æthelbert 's beheading

by Offa , as it had been struck as a sign of independence . Describing the coin , Christopher Webb , head of coins at auctioneers Dix Noonan Webb , said , " This new discovery is an important and unexpected addition to the numismatic history of 8th Century England . " It sold at auction on June 11 for £ 78 @, @ 000 (estimate £ 15 @, @ 000 to £ 20 @, @ 000) .

= = Legacy = =

= = = Veneration = = =

After his death , Æthelberht was canonised by the Church . He became the subject of a series of vitae that date from the eleventh century and he was venerated in religious cults in both East Anglia and at Hereford . The Anglo @-@ Saxon church of the episcopal estate at Hoxne was one of several dedicated to Æthelberht in Suffolk , a possible indication of the existence of a religious cult devoted to the saintly king . Only three dedications for Æthelberht are near where he died - Marden , Hereford Cathedral and Littledean - the other eleven being in Norfolk or Suffolk . Lawrence Butler has argued that this unusual pattern may be explained by the existence of a royal cult in East Anglia , which represented a " revival of Christianity after the Danish settlement by commemorating a politically ' safe ' and corporeally distant local ruler " .

= = = Christian buildings dedicated to Æthelberht = = =

The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Ethelbert are joint patrons the cathedral at Hereford , where the music for the Office of St Ethelbert survives in the thirteenth @-@ century Hereford Breviary .

In East Anglia , St. Ethelbert 's Gate is one of the two main entrances to the precinct of Norwich Cathedral . The chapel at Albrightestone , at a location near an important excavated Anglo @-@ Saxon cemetery at Boss Hall in Ipswich , was dedicated to Æthelberht . In Norfolk , the Church of England parish churches at Alby , East Wretham , Larling , Thurton , Mundham and Burnham Sutton (where there are remains of the ruined church) and the Suffolk churches at Falkenham , Hessett , Herringswell and Tannington are all dedicated to the saint . In neighbouring Essex , the parish church at Belchamp Otten is dedicated to St Ethelbert and All Saints , and the church at Stanway , originally an Anglo @-@ Saxon chapel , is dedicated to St Albright , which is believed to be the same saint . In 1937 , St Ethelbert 's name was added to the parish church of St George in East Ham , London , at the behest of Hereford Cathedral which had funded the rebuilding of the church , previously a temporary wooden structure .