
Contents

List of Illustrations	xi
List of Maps	xv
Preface to the Third Edition	xvii
Preface	xvii
Part I Prehistoric, Roman, and Early Medieval Britain	1
1 The Land and Peoples of Early Britain	3
Geography of the British Isles	3
Prehistoric Britain	4
Newgrange	00
The Bronze and Iron Ages	7
Hill Forts and Standing Stones	00
Stonehenge	8
The Celts	9
The Rise of Roman Britain	12
The Decline of Roman Rule	14
Life in Roman Britain	16
Suggested Reading	19
2 The Early Middle Ages, 410–1066	21
Anglo-Saxon Invasions and the Heptarchy	21
Christianity in the British Isles	23
The Celtic Church	00
St. Augustine	27
Impact of the Norse on Ireland and Scotland	00
The First Danish Invasions in England: King Alfred and the Danelaw	28
The Second Danish Invasions in England: Ethelred and Canute	29
Anglo-Saxon Society	32
Women	35
Economic Conditions	36
Scotland and Ireland	37
Edward the Confessor (1042–1066)	00
The Events of 1066	00
Intellectual and Artistic Life in the British Isles	38
Suggested Reading	45
Part II Norman Britain	47
3 The First Century of Feudalism, 1066–1189	49
William I and the Establishment of Feudalism	49
The Manorial System	52
Continuity and Change	53

vi Contents

The Domesday Book	54
The Sons of William I.	55
Henry I (1100–1135)	56
Stephen and Matilda (1135–1154).	57
Henry II (1154–1189) and the Angevin Empire	57
Wales, Ireland, and Scotland	59
Ecclesiastical History.	61
Henry II and Thomas Becket.	64
The English Constitution under Henry I and Henry II.	65
Royal Advisors and Councils	66
Government Finance	67
The Great Officers of State.	68
Local Government	68
Royal Courts and the Common Law	69
Suggested Reading.	71
4 The Age of the Plantagenets, 1189–1327	73
The Sons of Henry II	73
Richard I (1189–1199) and John (1199–1216)	73
The Barons and Magna Carta.	75
Henry III (1216–1272)	76
Simon de Montfort's Parliament	77
Edward I (1272–1307)	77
The Development of Parliament	78
Edward I and the Courts	80
Edward I's Last Years	80
Edward II (1307–1327)	82
Wales and Ireland in the Thirteenth Century	82
Scotland	85
The Crisis of English Feudalism	87
Suggested Reading.	87
5 The Later Middle Ages, 1327–1485	89
Edward III (1327–1377) and the Hundred Years' War	89
The Black Death.	91
Scotland and Edward III	92
Edward III and Ireland.	93
Richard II and the Revolution of 1399	94
Parliament in the Fourteenth Century	98
Parliament in Scotland	100
Henry IV (1399–1413) and Henry V (1413–1422).	100
Wales under the Lancastrians	102
Henry VI (1422–1471)	103
The Wars of the Roses, 1455–1485	105
Edward IV (1461–1483) and the Yorkists	107
Richard III (1483–1485).	107
Parliament in the Fifteenth Century.	109
The Early Stewarts in Scotland	110
Suggested Reading.	111

6 Medieval British Society, 1066–1485	113
England	000
The Population	113
Social Structure: The Peasants	114
Social Structure: The Aristocracy and Middling Groups	115
Medieval Women	117
Inheritance Patterns	119
Farms and Towns	119
The Wool Trade	121
Guilds	122
Housing	123
The Church	125
Monks, Friars, and Nuns	132
The Church in Medieval Society	135
Wycliffe and the Lollards	136
The Jews in England	136
Schools and Universities	137
Chaucer and the English Language	140
Ireland	000
The Anglo-Norman Towns	000
The Gaelic Lordships	000
Scotland	000
The Lowland Burghs	000
The Highlands	000
Wales	000
The End of the Middle Ages	140
Suggested Reading	141
Part III The Tudors and The Stuarts	143
7 The Earlier Tudors, 1485–1547	145
Henry VII (1485–1509)	145
The Impostors	146
Dynastic Marriages	147
Financial Administration	148
The Early Reign of Henry VIII	149
Cardinal Wolsey	152
The King’s Great Matter	154
Thomas Cromwell and the Reformation Parliament, 1529–1536	156
The Dissolution of the Monasteries	158
The Reformation in Religion and Society	161
The Six Wives of Henry VIII	162
Henry VIII’s Last Years	163
Suggested Reading	166
8 The Later Tudors, 1547–1603	169
Edward VI (1547–1553) and the Triumph of Protestantism	169
Mary Tudor (1553–1558): Catholicism, Exiles, and Martyrs	172
Elizabeth I (1558–1603) and the Settlement of Religion	175
Puritanism and Recusancy	178

viii Contents

Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy	180
Scotland and Mary, Queen of Scots	181
The Netherlands and the Armada	184
Essex's Rebellion and Execution	185
The Virgin Queen's Last Years	186
Suggested Reading.	186
9 The Celtic Lands and the Tudors	189
Descendants of the Celtic Peoples	189
Wales	189
Ireland and Henry VIII.	191
Queen Elizabeth and the Irish.	192
Religion in Ireland.	193
Scotland in the Sixteenth Century	195
The Reformation in Scotland.	196
The Highlands	198
The End of an Era	199
Suggested Reading.	199
10 The Early Stuarts and the War of the Three Kingdoms, 1603–1649	201
The Seventeenth Century	201
King James VI and I	201
James I and the Puritans	203
James's First Parliament	204
Royal Favorites.	207
James's Later Parliaments	208
Scotland: "Government by Pen"	209
Ireland: The Plantation of Ulster	210
Charles I (1625–1649)	211
Charles's Personal Rule, 1629–1640	214
Religion during the Personal Rule	215
The Short Parliament, 1640	217
The Long Parliament, 1640–1660	218
The Irish Massacre, 1641	219
The Attempt on the Five Members, 1642	219
Causes of the Civil War	220
The Civil War, 1642–1646	221
The Search for Peace	224
The Trial and Execution of Charles I.	224
Suggested Reading.	225
11 The Interregnum, Restoration, and Glorious Revolution, 1649–1688	227
The Interregnum, 1649–1660	227
The Commonwealth.	227
The Protectorate	230
Cromwellian Ireland and Scotland	233
Religion during the Interregnum	234
Richard Cromwell, 1658–1659	235
Charles II and the Restoration.	236
The Restoration Settlement.	237

The Clarendon Code	238
The Settlement in Wales, Ireland, and Scotland	239
Clarendon's Ministry, 1660–1667	240
The Cabal and the Third Dutch War	241
Danby and the Rise of Political Parties	242
The Exclusion Parliaments	243
James II (1685–1688)	244
Birth of a Catholic Heir	246
The Glorious Revolution	248
The Significance of the Glorious Revolution	250
Suggested Reading	251
12 Social, Cultural, and Intellectual History, 1485–1688	253
The Population	253
Social Classes	254
Social and Economic Dislocation	256
Economic and Social Legislation	258
Industrial Expansion	260
Exploration, Trade, and Colonization	260
Family Structure	261
Women in Early Modern Society	262
Housing and Architecture and the Great Rebuilding	265
Intellectual History and Literature	274
Printing and Literacy	275
Changes in Thought: The Scientific Revolution and Political Theory	276
The Arts and Popular Culture	278
Education	280
Suggested Reading	283
Epilogue: The British Isles in 1688	285
Appendix: Genealogical Tables	287
Index	293