

A Shortened History of England

PELICAN BOOKS

A443

A SHORTENED HISTORY OF ENGLAND

G. M. TREVELYAN

George Macaulay Trevelyan, O.M., C.B.E., F.B.A., born in 1876, was the third son of Sir George Otto Trevelyan and a great-nephew of Lord Macaulay. He was educated at Harrow and at Trinity College, Cambridge. In the First World War he was awarded the Silver Medal for Valour (Italy) and the Chevalier of the Order of St Maurice and St Lazarus (Italy).

He was an Hon. D.C.L., Oxford, and Hon. LL.D., St Andrews and Edinburgh, a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and an Honorary Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. From 1927 to 1940 he was Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge and from 1940 to 1951 he was Master of Trinity. He was also a Trustee of the British Museum and the National Portrait Gallery. He was President of the Youth Hostels' Association from 1930 to 1950, and was Chairman of the Estates Committee of the National Trust. He died in 1962.

Among his books on British history are: *England in the Age of Wycliffe*, *England under the Stuarts*, *The English Revolution 1688*, *England under Queen Anne*, *British History in the Nineteenth Century*, *History of England*, and *English Social History*. *Lord Grey of the Reform Bill*, *Lord Grey of Fallodon*, *The Life of Bright*, and the famous Garibaldi trilogy are his biographical works.



A SHORTENED HISTORY OF ENGLAND

BY

George Mucaulay Trevelyan

— 1900

PENGUIN BOOKS

Penguin Books Ltd, Harmondsworth, Middlesex
U.S.A.: Penguin Books Inc., 3300 Clipper Mill Road, Baltimore 11, Md
AUSTRALIA: Penguin Books Pty Ltd, 762 Whitehorse Road,
Mitcham, Victoria

—
First published by Longmans, Green & Co. Inc., New York, 1942
Published in Pelican Books 1959
Reprinted 1960, 1962, 1963

—
Copyright © Estate of G. M. Trevelyan, 1942

—
This book is an abridged edition of
G. M. Trevelyan's *History of England*,
published by Longmans, Green, & Co. Ltd

—
Made and printed in Great Britain
by Hunt, Barnard & Co. Ltd,
Aylesbury
Set in Monotype Times Roman

This book is sold subject to the condition
that it shall not, by way of trade, be lent,
re-sold, hired out, or otherwise disposed
of without the publisher's consent,
in any form of binding or cover
other than that in which
it is published

CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Introduction | 13 |
|--------------|----|

BOOK ONE

THE MINGLING OF THE RACES

| | |
|---|-----|
| From the Earliest Times to the Norman Conquest | 17 |
| I. Early Man. Iberian and Celt | 18 |
| II. Roman Britain | 28 |
| III. Beginning of Nordic Invasions. Anglo-Saxon Conquest | 37 |
| IV. Mediterranean Influence Again. Return of Christianity | 53 |
| V. Second Nordic Invasion. Viking Settlement and Influence | 69 |
| VI. Life in Later Saxon England. Feudalism Encroaching. Canute and the Nordic Maritime Empire | 83 |
| VII. The Norman Conquest up to Hastings | 93 |
| VIII. The Norman Conquest Completed and Norman Institutions established | 105 |

BOOK TWO

THE MAKING OF THE NATION

| | |
|--|-----|
| From the Conquest to the Reformation | 118 |
| I. Anarchy and the Restoration of Royal Power. Henry II. The Feudal System. King's Courts, Common Law, Jury | 123 |
| II. Richard I and the Crusades. Constitutionalism grows out of Feudalism. John and Magna Carta. Simon de Montfort. Parliament. Justices of the Peace. The Friars | 140 |
| III. Celt and Saxon. Attempts to complete the Island Empire. Ireland, Wales, Scotland | 160 |
| IV. The Hundred Years' War. The Birth of Nationalism. English Language. Black Death. The Peasants' Revolt. The Wars of the Roses | 180 |

BOOK THREE

THE TUDORS

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| | Renaissance, Reformation, and Sea Power | 201 |
| I. | The Renaissance Scholars. Wolsey and the Balance of Power. The Era of Discovery. Henry VIII founds the Royal Navy | 209 |
| II. | The Royal and Parliamentary Reformation under Henry VIII | 217 |
| III. | Interludes, Protestant and Catholic | 227 |
| IV. | Policy and Character of Elizabeth. Spain and France. The Scottish Reformation and the Future Great Britain. The End of Feudalism in England | 232 |
| V. | The Origin of English Sea Power | 243 |
| VI. | The great Elizabethan Era. Wales. Ireland. Religion. The Boundaries of Elizabethan Freedom. The Bible, Poetry, Music | 261 |

BOOK FOUR

THE STUART ERA

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| | Parliamentary Liberty and Overseas Expansion | 271 |
| I. | James I. Parliaments and Recusants. Decline of English Sea-Power. Buckingham and the Thirty Years' War. Charles I. King, Parliament, and the Common Law. Coke and Eliot. Laud and Strafford | 276 |
| II. | England and Scotland. The Long Parliament. The Great Civil War. Oliver Cromwell. Revival of Sea-Power | 291 |
| III. | English Village and Town Life. Character of Colonization in Seventeenth Century. New England, Virginia, England, France, and Holland | 314 |
| IV. | The Restoration. Charles II. Formation of the Whig and Tory Parties | 327 |
| V. | James II and the English Revolution | 342 |
| VI. | Scotland and Ireland from the Restoration to Queen Anne | 353 |
| VII. | The Wars of William and Marlborough. The Downfall of Louis XIV and the Rise of Great Britain to Maritime and Commercial Supremacy. Death of Anne and the Dynastic Crisis | 363 |

BOOK FIVE

FROM UTRECHT TO WATERLOO

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| | Sea Power and Aristocracy. First Stage of the Industrial Revolution | 377 |
| I. | Early Hanoverian England. Prime Minister, Cabinet, and Parliament. The Eve of the Industrial Revolution. Annexation of Canada and foundation of the Indian Empire | 380 |
| II. | Personal Government of George III. The Disruption of the First British Empire. Restoration of Government by Party and Cabinet. Burke, Fox, and the Younger Pitt | 398 |
| III. | The French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. Pitt and Nelson. Wellington and Castlereagh | 416 |
| IV. | The Empire in the Latter Years of George III. England, Scotland, Ireland. Canada and Australia. India. The Anti-Slave-Trade Movement | 4 |
| V. | Early Stages of the Industrial Revolution. Population. Canals. Machinery. Coal. The movement of Industry. Enclosure. Housing. Administrative Defects. <i>Laissez faire</i> | 4 |

BOOK SIX

WATERLOO TO TO-DAY

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| | Transition to Democracy. Development of Commonwealth | 461 |
| I. | Repression and Reform. Peel and Huskisson, Castlereagh and Canning. The Wellington Ministry. The Reform Bill | 465 |
| II. | The Repeal of the Corn Laws. Disraeli and Peel. Whigs and Palmerston. Civil Service. Queen Victoria. Crimea. The Second Reform Bill | 478 |
| III. | Character of the Second British Empire. Growth of Canada. Relations with the United States. Australasia. South Africa. India | 491 |
| IV. | Gladstone. Disraeli. Home Rule. The Era of the Jubilees. Social Reform and Imperialism | 511 |
| V. | Boer War to the War of 1914-18. The Last Liberal Ministry | 524 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| VI. End of Isolation. Lansdowne and Grey. Ententes with France and Russia. Europe's Drift to War, 1914 | 535 |
| VII. The War and the Peace. Between the Wars | 544 |
| Chronological Outline | 561 |
| Index | 587 |

LIST OF MAPS

| | | |
|-------|---|-----------|
| I. | Celtic and Roman Britain | 10 and 11 |
| II. | Iberian Britain | 25 |
| III. | The Destruction of Roman Britain | 39 |
| IV. | England of the Heptarchy | 47 |
| V. | Viking Routes | 75 |
| VI. | The Angevin Empire | 127 |
| VII. | Medieval Wales | 169 |
| VIII. | Medieval Scotland and North England | 175 |
| IX. | The World in the Elizabethan Era | 245 |
| X. | Ireland in the Seventeenth Century | 304 |
| XI. | English American Settlements, latter part of the Seventeenth Century | 319 |
| XII. | French and English Colonies, 1755 | 395 |
| XIII. | The Two Canadas and the Maritime Provinces, 1791 | 437 |
| XIV. | India, early Nineteenth Century | 442 |
| XV. | India in 1906 | 443 |
| XVI. | Development of the West Canadian Border with U.S.A. in the Nineteenth Century | 497 |
| XVII. | South Africa, 1899 | 501 |

*The maps for this edition have been
drawn by Anthony Gatrell*

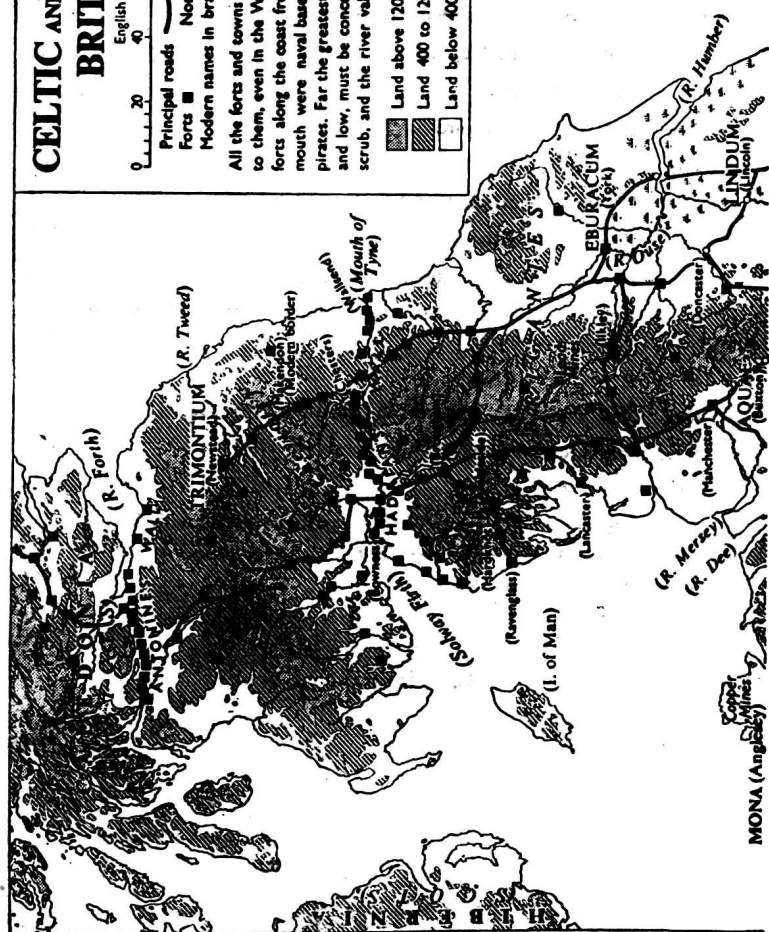
CELTIC AND ROMAN BRITAIN

English Miles
0 20 40 60 80 100

Principal roads —
Forts ■
Modern names in brackets (Dover) (A. Exr)

All the forts and towns here marked had roads to them, even in the Welsh mountains. The forts along the coast from Brancaster to Portsmouth were naval bases against the Saxon pirates. Far the greatest part of the land, high and low, must be conceived as under forest or scrub, and the river valleys water-logged.

Land above 1200 feet
Land 400 to 1200 feet
Land below 400 feet





INTRODUCTION

THE history of civilized man in our country is very old; it begins long before the reign of Alfred. But the history of Britain as a leader in the world's affairs is of much shorter date; it begins with the reign of Elizabeth. The reason can be read upon the map. Map-makers, whether in ancient Alexandria or in medieval monasteries, placed our island on the north-west edge of all things. But, after the discovery of America and the ocean routes to Africa and the East, Britain lay in the centre of the new maritime movement. This change in her geographic outlook was employed to good purpose by her inhabitants, who in the era of the Stuarts made her the chief seat of the new trans-oceanic commerce and of the finance and industry that sustained it. Next, with the aid of modern science, the land of Newton applied machinery to manufacture and began the world-wide Industrial Revolution. Meanwhile, Britain was peopling and giving laws to North America; and after she had lost the Thirteen Colonies, she built up a second Empire, more widely scattered and more vast.

These latter centuries of material growth and leadership correspond with the period of greatest intellectual achievement. In spite of Bede, Roger Bacon, Chaucer, and Wycliffe, Britain's contribution to medieval science and literature is slight when compared to the world of her intellectual creation from the time of Shakespeare onward. The era when London awoke to find herself the maritime centre of the suddenly expanded globe, was also the era of the Renaissance and the Reformation – movements of intellectual growth and individual self-assertion which proved more congenial to the British than to many other races, and seemed to emancipate the island genius.

In the sphere of pure politics Britain is famous as the mother of Parliaments. In answer to the instincts and temperament of her people, she evolved in the course of centuries a system which reconciled three things that other nations have often found incompatible – executive efficiency, popular control, and personal freedom.

It is indeed in the Middle Ages that we must seek the origin of Parliament, and of the English Common Law which the ultimate victory of Parliament over the Royal power has made supreme in all English-speaking lands. The political merit of the Medieval period lay in its dislike of absolutism in the Temporal sphere, its

elaborate distribution of power, its sense of corporate life, and its consultation of the various corporate interests through their representatives. But, although Parliament was a characteristic product of the Middle Ages, the development of its powers in Tudor, Stuart, and Hanoverian days, its resistance to the political theories of the Roman law received in contemporary Europe, and its transplantation to America and the Antipodes, are the great events which raised the political history of Britain into a sphere apart from the political life of the Continent. For, although France and Spain had a number of medieval Estates and Parliaments, they failed to adapt them to modern conditions. On the passing of feudalism, the Latin peoples read despotic monarchy as the political message of the new era. Against Machiavelli's princely interpretation of the new nationalism, Britain alone of the great national States successfully held out, turned back the tide of despotism, and elaborated a system by which a debating club of elected persons could successfully govern an Empire in peace and in war. During the commercial and military struggles with foreign rivals which followed between 1689 and 1815, our goods, our ships, and our armies, proved that Parliamentary freedom might be more efficient than despotism as a means of giving force to the national will. Nor, in the new era of man's life introduced by the Industrial Revolution, has this verdict yet been reversed.

In the Nineteenth Century the same Parliamentary institutions, while undergoing democratic transformation, were put to the severer test of coping with the new and bewildering conditions of social life created by the Industrial Revolution. At the same time the vast and ever-increasing Empire, of white, brown, and black communities, presented diverse and complicated problems, each one recurring in new guise every few years under the stimulus that modern economic conditions give to social and political change. Parliamentary government for the white races, and the desire to govern justly societies not yet prepared for self-government, have so far preserved this astonishing association of peoples.

Whatever, then, be our chief interest in the past - whether material progress and racial expansion, the growth of political and social institutions, or pure intellect and letters - it is the last four hundred years in British History which stand out. Yet I have not hesitated to devote a third of this work to a survey of the pre-Tudor epochs. The mingling of the armed races poured into Britain from the earliest times until 1066, and the national temper and customs which they developed in the shelter of the

island guarded by the Norman and Plantagenet Kings, alone rendered it possible for five millions of people, ruled by Elizabeth, to lay hold on the splendid future offered to themselves and their descendants by the maritime discoveries and intellectual movements of that age. If the hour then came, the men, too, were ready.

Britain has always owed her fortunes to the sea, and to the havens and rivers that from the earliest times opened her inland regions to what the sea might bring. Long before she aspired to rule the waves she was herself their subject, for her destiny was continually being decided by the boat-crews which they floated to her shore. From Iberian and Celtic to Saxon and Danish settlers, from prehistoric and Phoenician traders to Roman and Norman overlords, successive tides of warlike colonists, the most energetic seamen, farmers, and merchants of Europe came by the wave-path to inhabit her, or to instil their knowledge and spirit into the older inhabitants. Her east coast lay obvious and open to Teuton and Scandinavian immigrants; her south coast to cultural influences from the Mediterranean by way of France. From Teuton and Scandinavian she acquired the more important part of her population and character and the root of her language; from the South she received the rest of her language, the chief forms of her culture, and much of her organizing power.

The Norman Conquest severed her ties with Scandinavia, which Canute had drawn very close. For several hundred years the Nordic islanders were governed by a French-speaking aristocracy and a Latin-speaking clergy. By a significant paradox it was under this foreign leadership that the English began to develop their intense national feeling and their peculiar institutions, so different in spirit from those of Italy and France. Already among the fellow-countrymen of Chaucer and Wycliffe, even when engaged in the disastrous adventure of the Hundred Years' War, we see the beginnings of a distinct English nationality, far richer than the old Saxon, composed of many different elements of race, character, and culture which the tides of ages had brought to our coasts and the island climate had tempered and mellowed into harmony. At the Reformation the English, grown to manhood, dismissed their Latin tutors, without reacting into close contact with the Scandinavian and Teuton world. Britain had become a world by itself.

It was at this crisis in England's cultural and political growth, when she was weakening her ties with Europe, that the union

with Scotland came about, and at the same time the ocean offered the islanders a pathway to every corner of the newly discovered globe. The universality of the Englishman's experience and outlook – quite as marked a characteristic as his insularity – is due to his command of the ocean which has for more than three centuries past carried him as explorer, trader, and colonist to every shore in the two hemispheres.

Thus, in early times, the relation of Britain to the sea was passive and receptive; in modern times, active and acquisitive. In both it is the key to her story.