

INTRODUCTION

A unified entity till the 19th century

To explain the mixture of culture and the predominance of the English culture, we have to get back to those successive invasions the area had known.

During the first millennium before Christ, there were “Celtic tribes” (*Pict, Caledonian, Gael, Scotties*) who reached a high level of civilization. They fought against the Roman invaders and rejected the assimilation. So, the “Celtic tribes” were continuously pushed to the countryside because of their rejection to be Latinized by the Romans.

While in the city “Britannia”, the Romans built towns with sanitation systems, created head-quarters, built roads to develop trade and mobility which have helped to exchange ideas and culture. So, the Britons accepted to be educated in Latin, assimilated, and embraced the Roman belief.

By the 5th Century AD, a new force emerged “the Anglo-Saxons” who came from Scandinavia and Northern Europe. They concentrated in “England” because it was the most convenient place, then invaded “the Celts”.

When the Romans left, they let all the tribes in total clash and conflict. (A mixture of hostile people)

Then “The Vikings” (*Danes and Norsemen*) came mainly from Scandinavia. They were considered by their violence and lack of religious belief (*pagans*). Also, they were uneducated, blood-thirsty, greedy of land and extremely powerful.

“The Normans” introduced institutional and social frame work. The absolute monarchy, Feudalism/ the class system (=the absolute monarch → the nobles (the elite) → the landowners → the servants).

→ Celts → Romans (education + religion) → Anglo-Saxons (strength) → Vikings (greedy of land, ferocious, blood-thirsty, no religion) → Normans (social hierarchy).

After all, the “Celts” continued to resist assimilation.

“The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland” constitutes a political unity (the same parliament, prime minister and institutions); however, there is an English, Anglo-Saxon predominance (language, life style, politics, population)

In the 60s, there was a referendum which consisted of the decentralisation of institutions from London and a parliament to deal with local issues. The Scottish and Welsh weren't ready to be autonomous until 1997 when there was another referendum because they grew larger and became ready to be autonomous. So Wales was given its own assembly and Scotland its own parliament. (Devolution: decentralization of power = partial autonomy)

The decentralization was important to legislate for themselves, to deal autonomously with local issues and to be recognized as being different with their own specificities.

After the devolution, the English felt less powerful, less dominant. So, they see their Englishness more important than their Britishness. “Devolution is divorce” as Margaret Thatcher used to say.