

History Knowledge Organiser HT2- How did the Normans change England?

Harrying of the North

William punished rebels in the North harshly by executing the leaders of the rebellion, slaughtering livestock, burning the crop fields and adding salt to the fields so crops would not grow. This was a reminder to others of the consequences of rebelling

Law and order

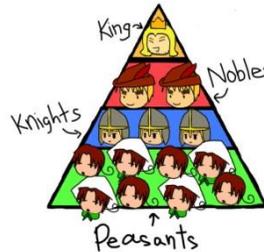
New murdrum fines meant peasants were less likely to attack Normans for fear of being punished. Trials by combat (a fight to the death - the winner was deemed to be innocent) were introduced which favoured the Normans who were generally more skilled in fighting.

Castles

The Normans built many castles - Motte and Bailey (the first made of wood) and then stone-square keep castles around England. Many were on the borders and the coasts. Castles provided a secure home for the local noble and also a base for soldiers in case of attack. They allowed the Normans to rule over the local English.

Land

William took over all the land and gave some to loyal Norman nobles and some to the Church. This meant he had loyal followers helping him to rule all of England. He also brought the FEUDAL SYSTEM over from Normandy - this gave more power to the nobles and a new group - the knights, to help the Normans to rule



Village system

Peasants were kept uneducated farmers which prevented potential rebellion. The villages were controlled by a local Lord who used a 'Reeve' (chosen peasant) to help him run the day-to-day business. All people regularly attended Church in the village. In 1086 a survey called the DOMESDAY BOOK was carried out to check what everyone owned - this helped the King to take the right amount of tax.

| Changes under the Normans | Continuity under the Normans |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The King now owned all the land in England The Feudal System was introduced Anglo-Saxon landowners were mainly replaced by Norman landowners More churches and Cathedrals were built in the Norman style Castles were built across England The number of towns increased Norman words entered the language (e.g. 'arrow' and 'knight') Powerful Anglo-Saxons in the Church were replaced with Normans Peasants now faced fines for hunting in the Lords forest or attacking a Norman Every household had to pay a tax to the Pope in Rome Schools increased from 40 in the 12th century to 75 in the 13th century Trial by jury and trial by combat were introduced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peasants remained in their traditional farming role Local priests were mainly Anglo-Saxon The financial system of having a treasury and minting coins remained For many peasants their language remained the same - Anglo-Saxon English Anglo-Saxon trials by ordeal and mutilation were kept Monasteries remained healthier than towns/villages The system of oath-making was kept by the Normans The Catholic religion was still followed |



Why were monasteries healthier?

- Built near to rivers - clean water supply
- Monks bathed regularly as a sign of purity to God
- Access to medical books and manuscripts and could read them!!
- Isolated away from the dirty towns

Why were medieval towns and villages so smelly?

- Waste and rubbish thrown into rivers - dirty water
- No toilets - cesspits in towns. 'Gong farmers' cleared them out but not regularly - flies and rats attracted
- Overcrowding - cramped, dark houses
- Muddy unpaved streets - drains overflowed when it rained and ran down streets
- Peasant houses had no floors and fire always burning - poor ventilation! Animals were also kept inside.
- No education or understanding of hygiene or disease