

How difference was inheritance Law?

The traditions of inheritance changed under the Normans so that the king had more direct control.



Anglo-Saxon	Normans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the Anglo-Saxons, property and land was divided between all the sons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Normans changed this and property was passed on intact to the eldest son. This is known as Primogeniture. This meant that the Normans were able to keep large estates of land and maintain power effectively. Primogeniture meant that younger brothers and sisters could be left with nothing after their father's death. The Lord could then keep the land, grant it away as a gift or sell it off. If a tenant died before their heir was of age, the Lord could take the land temporarily! These laws were known as FEUDAL INCIDENTS and gave a new source of money and power for the king and the elite. It meant the lords had continuing control of how much their tenants descended from one generation to another.



William II abused this system, causing a lot of complaints. Therefore, the coronation charter of Henry I promised that he would act in a just and lawful manner.

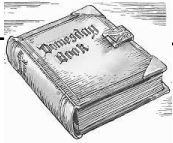
The Domesday Survey and Tax!

Domesday Survey- how and why William survey the country to keep the money flowing in.

What do I need to know:

- Why William ordered the survey
- Compare life in England in 1066 and 1086
- Evaluate the impact of the Normans on landholding.
- Understand inheritance laws.

The Domesday Survey!



- In 1085 William asked officials to conduct a survey of all property and resources in England.
- It was a massive undertaking which was completed in less than a year.
- The resulting document is one of the best sources we have about Norman England.
- The Norman Conquest had completely changed the ownership of land in England. Since 1066 people had died or land had been sold and land disputes were common.
- They took up court time and caused unrest. A thorough survey would reveal exactly who owned what and how that had changed since 1066.
- Even more importantly it would allow William to change rents and tax people more efficiently.
- When it was presented to the King at Salisbury on 1st August 1086, the most important tenants were made to swear loyalty to the King. The final survey as we have it today was completed by William's son, William Rufus.

When did the survey become a book?

In 1085, William faced the threat of invasion from Danish Vikings and the Count of Flanders, so he called a Council of War in Gloucester. He needed to enforce a geld (tax) to pay for his army. He ordered an inventory to be drawn up in order to help him raise the tax.

What does Domesday mean?

The survey became known as Domesday which means 'day of judgement'. The term was only used in the 12th century because by then the legal authority of the Survey was seen as being equal to that of God's on judgement day.

What does the survey tell us about William?

William and his family owned 20% of the land in England. The Church owned 25% and about 10 members of the Norman aristocracy held a further 25% of land. The remaining 30% was held by 170 people.

What does it tell us about England?

It tells us who owned the land but also sheds light on England's population and how much wealth that population did or did not have.

What does it tell us about the population?

There were about 2,000 knights and 10,000 Norman settlers. The total population was between 1.5 and 2 million people.

What did the survey miss out?

Some places were left out including London and Winchester, perhaps because the survey was left unfinished.

What can we learn from the Domesday about differences between Anglo-Saxon and Norman England?

About 250 people controlled the land, this was SIMILAR to the time of Edward the Confessor. However, the main DIFFERENCE was that under King Edward the land belonged mostly to Anglo-Saxons, under William it was mainly owned by foreigners.

Key Words:

- Patronage
- Primogeniture
- Feudal incidents
- Write

