

# **Lecture 3**

## **The Middle Ages**

### **The UK**



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# Plan

- The coming of Christianity
- Unification of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms
- Terror of the Northmen
- Alfred the Great
- Norman England
- The Feudal System
- Heroes and Historians



# The coming of Christianity

- 597, Augustine (a bishop)
- Bertha, wife of the Kentish king, Ethelbert
- Augustine - the 1<sup>st</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury
- 625, Paulinus
- Pagan traditions (charms, omen-reading, witchcraft, sorcery)
- Bede (673-735); the Venerable Bede
- Alcuin (735-804)



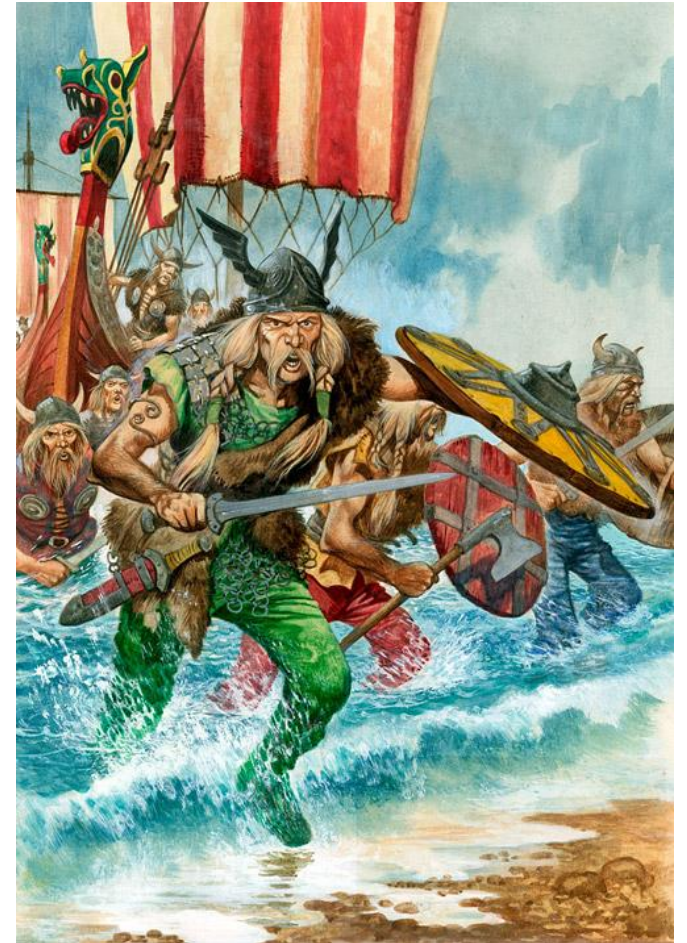
# Unification of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

- 829, Egbert
- Granted land, the right to collect dues from the peasants
- 8-10<sup>th</sup> -barbarian attacks
- Northmen=Vikings
- The Danes



# Terror of the Northmen

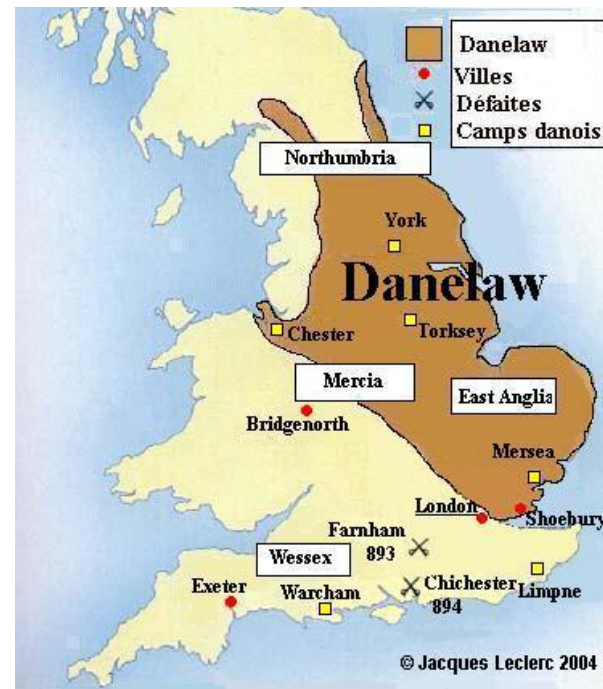
- Around 790
- The Danish raids - from the North Sea
- Northumbria and East Anglia suffered a lot
- Edmund was killed
- Wessex, 835, Egbert defeated the Danes
- Jorvik
- Bury St Edmunds





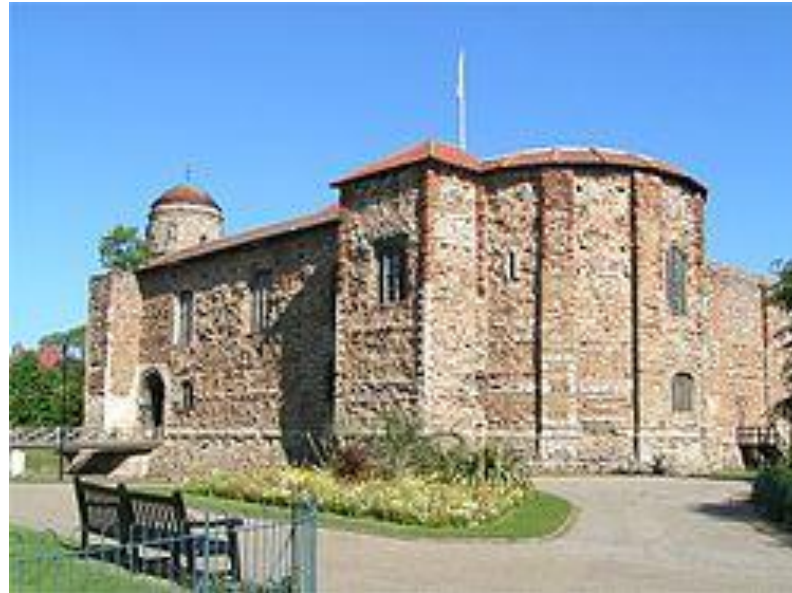
# Alfred the Great

- 871, king of Wessex
- Statesmanship, scholarship and care for his nation
- The Danelaw



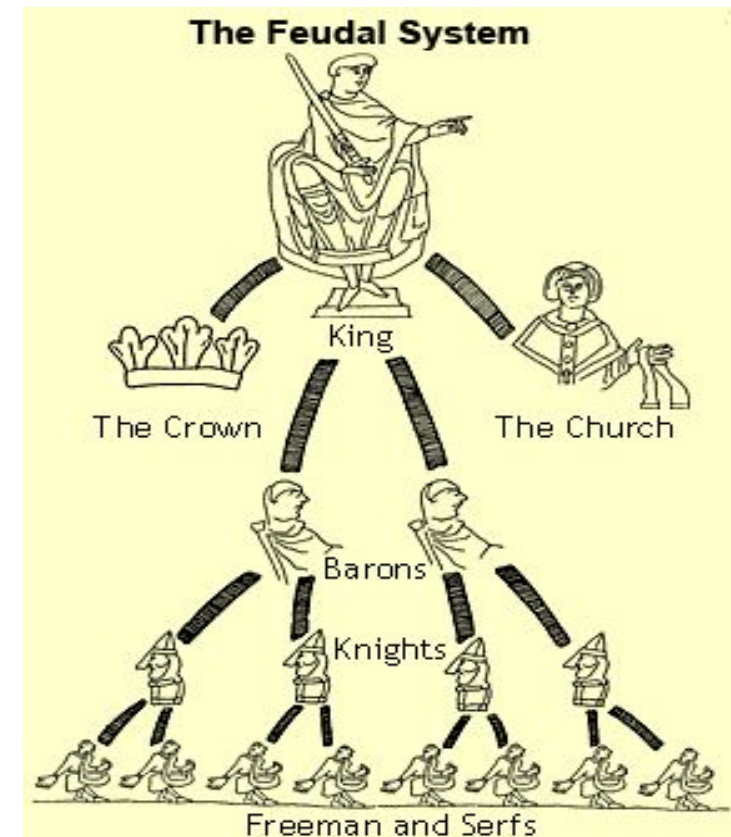
# Norman England

- William the Conqueror
- Without ancestral claim, royal descent
- Colchester Castle



# The feudal system

- Norman aristocracy=kleptocracy
- Not the King of the English





# Heroes and Historians

- 12-13<sup>th</sup> - a golden age
- Biographies, genealogies, accounts of great deeds
- To show the moral, to glorify the present
- To show the things had sunk down
- Geoffrey of Monmouth
- The *Historia Regum Britanniae*



**Thank you  
for your attention!**

