ANCIENT GERMANIC TRIBES AND THEIR CLASSIFICATION

Classical History

WHO ARE THE GERMANIC PEOPLES?

- The Germanic peoples (also called Teutonic /tju:'tɔnik/ in older literature) are the great ethnic group of ancient Europe, a basic stock in the composition of the modern peoples of England, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Northern Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg /'lʌks(ə)mbɜ:g/, North and central France, North and Lowland Scotland.

Germania

Germania (Greek: Γερμανία) was the Greek and Roman geographic term for the geographical regions inhabited mainly by peoples considered to be *Germani*. It was most often used to refer especially to the east of the Rhine and north of the Danube.

The etymology of the word *Germani* is uncertain.

Some scolars have proposed a Germanic etymology **gēr-manni*, "spear men", cf. Dutch *geer*, German *Ger*, Old Norse *geirr*, as the spear was the most common of weapons in ancient Germanic society and every free man had at least one.

The **likeliest theory** so far proposed is that it comes from a Gaulish compound of **ger* "near" + **mani* "men", comparable to Welsh *ger* "near" (prep.), Old Irish *gair* "neighbor", Irish *gar-* (prefix) "near", *garach* "neighborly“ [Wikipedia].

An Ancient Germanic Warrior with a Spear

The Etymology of the Word '*deutsch*'

The word *deutsch* (German) probably first came into use in the 8th century [Wikipedia].
The word '*deutsch*' means 'people, nation'. Cl.: O.E. *þēōd/ þīōd*, *n. f. ō* – nation, people.
The generic **þiuda-* "people" occurs in many personal names such as *Thiud-reks* and also in the ethnonym of the *Swedes* from a cognate of Old English *Sweo-ðēod*. Additionally, *þiuda-* appears in *Angel-ðēod* ("Anglo-Saxon people") and *Gut-þiuda* ("Gothic people"). The same root is in the word '*Teuton*'.

GERMANIC BARBARIANS

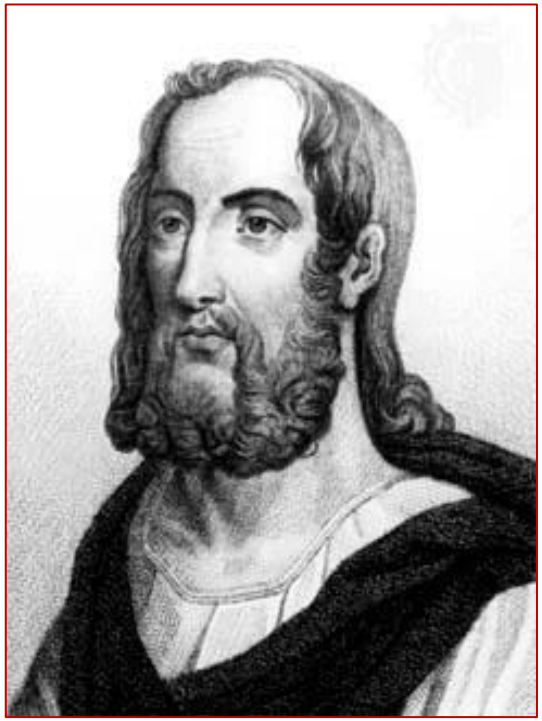
Ancient Germanic Family in the 300ths

Franks

GERMAN ATTACK

Pliny the Elder

Pliny the Elder, was an author, naturalist, and natural philosopher as well as a naval and army commander of the early Roman Empire. He lived from 23 A.D to 79 A.D.
He made up the first classification of Germanic tribes.

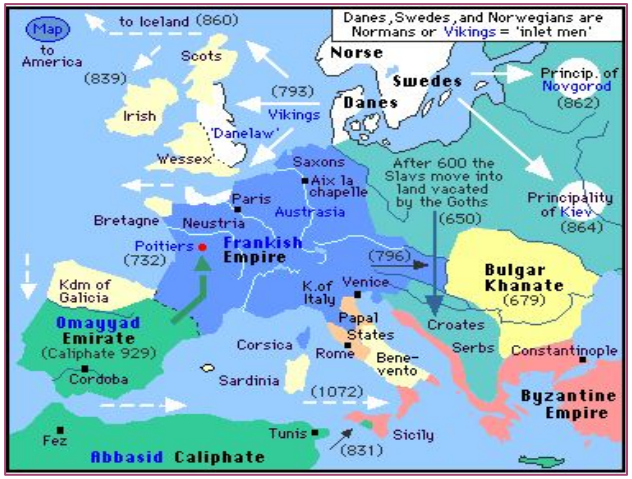


According to Pliny the Elder, Germanic tribes could be divided into the following groups:

- **1. The Vindili** /'vindilai/. They inhabited *the eastern part* of Germanic territory (the Goths, Burgundians, Vandals, etc.).

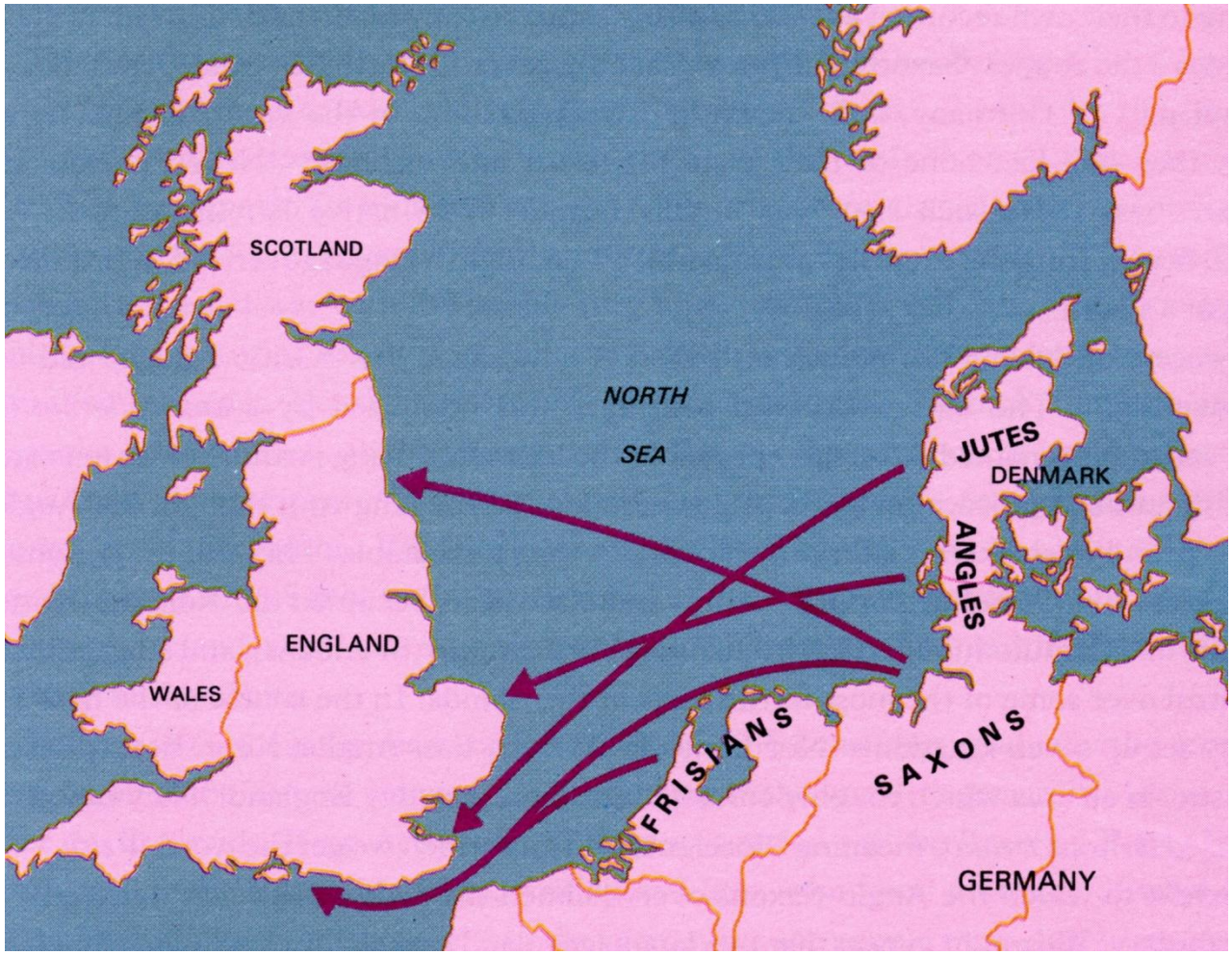
- **2. The Ingaevones** /'inɡi:vəunz/(or **Ingvaeones**). They inhabited the *north-western part* of Germanic territory, i.e. the shores of the North Sea (the Saxons, Angles, Jutes, Frisians).

- **3. The Iscaevones** (or **Istaevones**). These inhabited *the western part* of Germanic territory, on the Rhine Later they formed a very powerful tribal union of Franconians (Franks).



GERMANIC MIGRATION TO ENGLAND

The Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Frisians were the tribes of the **Ingaevones.**



- **4. The Hermiones** (or **Herminones**). These inhabited the *southern part* of Germanic territory, i.e. what is now Southern Germany (the Alemans, Bavarians, Thuringians, etc.).
- Thuringia, Bavaria are the federal lands of the present-day Germany.

The Bavarian Alps

Erfurt, the centre of Thuringia

GERMAN STATES

Click on a location in the map
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- **5.** The Peucini and Bastarni. These *lived* close to Dacia ['deiʃə/ 'deisiə], i.e. *close to what is now Rumania.*

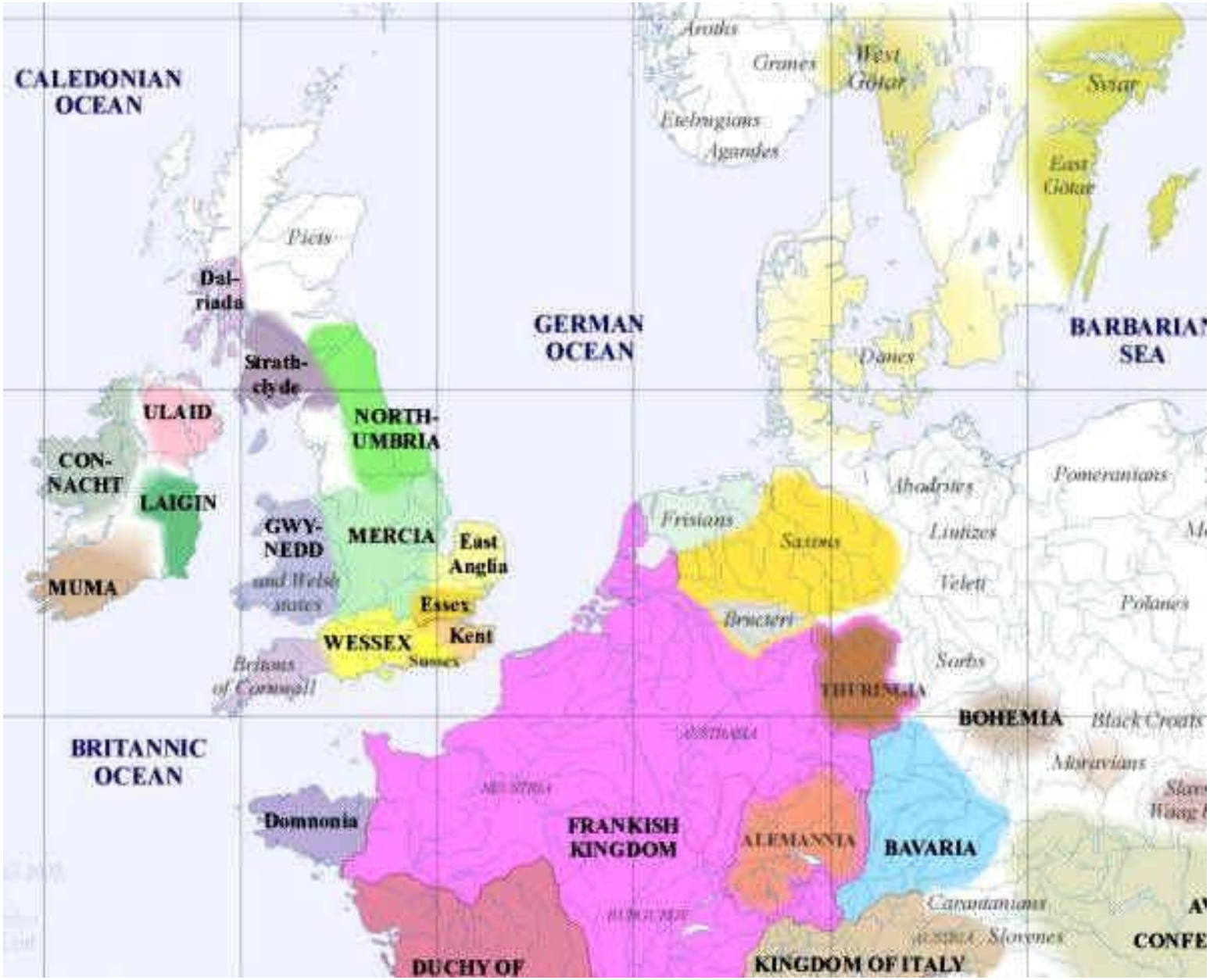
6. **The Hilleviones**, who inhabited *Scandinavia*.

In the 19th century linguists accepted Pliny's classification. But Group 5 was excluded.

Ancient Germanic Tribes

- 1. The Vindili /'vindilai/;
- 2. The Ingaevones /'inʤi:vəunz/(or Ingvaeones);
- 3. The Iscaevones (or Istaevones);
- 4. The Hermiones (or Herminones);
- 5. The Peucini and Bastarni;
- The Hilleviones.

60° N
Norsemen
Atlantic Ocean
Picts
North Sea
Jutes
Baltic Sea
Danes
Scots
Angles
Frisians
Saxons
50° N
Goths
Normans
Britons
Franks
Vandals
East Goths
Bay of Biscay
Lombards
West Goths


CALEDONIAN OCEAN
Aroths
Granes
West Götar
Svear
Etelrugians
Agandes
East Götar
Picts
Dal-riada
GERMAN OCEAN
BARBARIAN SEA
Danes
Strath-clyde
ULAID
NORTH-UMBRIA
CON-NACHT
LAIGIN
Abodrites
Pomeranians
Frisians
Saxons
Liutizes
GWY-NEDD
MERCIA
East Anglia
MUMA
and Welsh states
Veleti
Polanes
Essex
Bructeri
WESSEX
Kent
Sussex
Sorbs
Britons of Cornwall
THURINGIA
BOHEMIA
Black Croats
BRITANNIC OCEAN
Moravians
Domnonia
FRANKISH KINGDOM
ALEMANNIA
BAVARIA
Carantanians
Slovenes
DUCHY OF
KINGDOM OF ITALY

THE CLASSIFICATION OF GERMANIC TRIBES BASED ON PLINY'S WORK (19TH CENTURY)

- · East Germanic (Vindili),
- · West Germanic (Ingaevones, Iscaevones, Hermiones),
- · North Germanic (Hilleviones).

The traditional classification of Germanic languages was corrected in the 20th century. It has been discovered that Proto-Germanic originally split into two main groups and that the above-mentioned division represents a later stage of its history.

THANK YOU!