

Chapter Eleven Terms

William the Conqueror:

William the Conqueror, also known as William the Bastard, was the first Norman King of England. After a distant family member, the English King Edward the Confessor, died, he believed that he had a claim to the throne. He attempted to fight another potential successor, Harold Godwinson, multiple times and finally succeeded in 1066 at the Battle of Hastings. His rule marked the end of the Anglo-Saxon kings in England. The Norman Conquest and the invasion of England led to the implementation of Norman ideas, one of which being a system that led to fair taxation. Known as the Norman Inquest, this allowed William to know how much wealth his kingdom had, allowing him to tax accordingly. The Domesday Book was then completed between 1085 and 1086 and was the first public record in England. The Domesday Book set a precedent for future records in the nation, helped unify England, and gave the nation a firm financial setting. William the Conqueror is important because of his crushing of the Saxons and unification of England. He is also known for the start of the Norman Inquest and creating the Domesday Book, which help set up England's finances for the future.

Domesday Book:

The Domesday Book was created between 1085 and 1086 under the leadership of William the Conqueror. It is the earliest public record in England and includes thousands of entries of English landowners. These records were used as a census and were used to tax the farmers appropriately. The Domesday Book, an expansion of the Norman Inquest, is important because it set a precedent for future records in the nation, helped unify England, and gave the nation a firm financial setting. It also represented the power of the English king.

Thomas Becket:

Thomas Becket was the Archbishop of Canterbury under King Henry II during the twelfth century. Henry II had hoped, through the practice of lay investiture, to gain more power; however, Becket took his church duties seriously and stood up for the church in its disagreements with the king. Sensing Henry II's displeasure, Becket left for France. He remained in exile for six years until 1170; soon after returning, he was murdered by four of Henry II's knights who had believed that the king wanted him dead. After his death, Thomas Becket was seen as a saint and a martyr. Thomas Becket is important because he emphasized the issue of church and state and was a martyr and symbol of this conflict.

Henry II:

Henry II was the first Angevin king and ruled England in the mid-twelfth century. Henry II developed a common law and improved criminal justice procedures. He disliked trials by ordeal, and judicial reforms occurred during his reign. He tried to codify laws, however was not overly successful during his time as king. His son Richard I and his grandson King John, later known for signing the Magna Carta, were both more successful. He appointed Thomas Becket as the archbishop at Canterbury, but his old friend turned out to be a source of opposition. Ultimately, Becket was murdered and Henry II had to pay penance. Henry II is important because of his attempt at codifying laws, which paved the way for future monarchs. He is also important because of the fact that he was a centralizing monarch.