

William The Conqueror

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both a study of anglo norman history based upon long and detailed research and also the biography of a man whose personal career was spectacular

in william the conqueror edward a freeman delivers a comprehensive examination of one of history s most pivotal figures exploring the life and reign of william i of england freeman s meticulous narrative combines biographical detail with socio political analysis set against the backdrop of 11th century europe the book interlaces historical fact with vibrant prose eschewing dry academic language for a style that reflects freeman s deep passion for history making it accessible yet intellectually rigorous his exploration delves into william s strategies battles and the socio cultural transformations sparked by the norman conquest contributing to a richer understanding of medieval england s fabric edward a freeman was a prominent historian and advocate of rational historical analysis his extensive educational background and engagement with contemporary historians influenced his approach to writing this biography freeman s dedication to uncovering the nuances of the past stemmed from a desire to inform readers about the significance of historical events and figures particularly those whose legacies have dramatically shaped the course of nations his scholarly work reflects a commitment to vibrant storytelling grounded in thorough research this book is an essential read for those interested in understanding the formidable impact of william the conqueror on britain s history freeman s expert insights and compelling narrative invite readers to appreciate the complexities of conquest and governance making it a vital resource for both scholars and history enthusiasts alike

this book is not only an account of the personality and achievements of william the conqueror but also a dispassionate assessment of the norman contribution to the history of england

although rouen is now very far before all the other cities of normandy in point of magnitude and importance and though rollo in his conquest of the country made it his principal headquarters and his main stronghold it

did not continue exclusively the residence of the dukes of normandy in after years the father of william the conqueror was robert who he came subsequently the duke the sixth in the line he resided at the time when william was born in a great castle at falaise falaise as will be seen upon the map is west of rouen and it stands like rouen at some distance from the sea the castle was built upon a hill at a little distance from the town it has long since ceased to be habitable but the ruins still remain giving a picturesque but mournful beauty to the eminence which they crown they are often visited by travelers who go to see the place where the great hero and conqueror was born it was about 870 that rollo was banished from norway and a few years after that at most that he landed in france it was not however until 912 that he concluded his treaty of peace with charles so as to be fully invested with the title of duke of normandy he was advanced in age at this time and after spending five years in settling the affairs of his realm he resigned his dukedom into the hands of his son that he might spend the remainder of his days in rest and peace he died in 922 five years after his resignation he was only ten years old when his father was assassinated he became involved in long and arduous wars with the king of france which compelled him to call in the aid of more northmen from the baltic his new allies in the end gave him as much trouble as the old enemy with whom they came to help william contend and he found it very hard to get them away he wanted at length to make peace with the french king and to have them leave his dominions but they said that was not what they came for richard had a beautiful daughter named emma who afterward became a very important political personage as will be seen more fully in a subsequent chapter richard died in 996 after reigning fifty four years

1066 is the most famous date in english history on 14 october on senlac hill near hastings a battle was fought that would change the face of england forever over the next twenty years norman culture was imposed on england and english politics and society were radically reshaped but how much is really known about william the conqueror the norman duke who led his men to victory on that autumn saturday in what was to be the last successful invasion of england mark hagger here takes a fresh look at william his life and leadership as king he spent much of his reign threatened by rebellion and invasion in response he ordered castles and strongholds to be built across the land a symbol of the force with which he defended his realm and which along with domesday book england's first public record attest to a powerful legacy this book provides a rounded portrait of one of england's greatest rulers

william i old norman william i old english willelm i c 1028 19 september 1087 usually known as william the conqueror and sometimes william the bastard 2 a was the first norman king of england reigning from 1066 until his death in 1087 the descendant of viking raiders he had been duke of normandy since 1035 after a long struggle to establish his power by 1060 his hold on normandy was secure and he launched the norman conquest of england in 1066 the rest of his life was marked by struggles to consolidate his hold over england and his continental lands and by difficulties with his eldest son

jacob abbott was one of the most prolific american writers of history in the nineteenth century writing many biographies on the world's most influential leaders in a clear and exciting style this comprehensive volume first published in 1849 and part of abbott's illustrated histories series details the remarkable and fascinating life of william the conqueror the first norman king of england the king's life is researched and recorded thoroughly chronicling the years from his illegitimate birth to his calamitous burial born in normandy and promised the throne of england by king edward william decided to invade the country after another contender for the crown took the throne abbott recounts the famous battle of hastings in great detail and with an enthralling narrative captures the young conqueror's struggles ambition and aspirations during his time in power william the conqueror's reign in england significantly transformed the country whose residents resented being ruled by a foreigner who relied entirely upon his army to keep the country in subjugation and who suppressed their many revolts with a brief history of the saxon and danish kings of england and the dukes of normandy and original engravings this book is great for anyone interested in the political struggles of the middle ages and is a valuable addition to any history buff's library

chronicles the life of the duke of normandy who defeated the saxons at the battle of hastings became king of england and who dramatically changed the life of england s people

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william the son of a duke and a peasant spent his childhood in hiding raised among the norman peasantry lords owing fealty to him would have murdered him if they had found him he spent his early adult years fighting rebel lords for his birthright as duke of normandy he claimed the throne of england after the death of edward the confessor king of england who william said had promised to name him heir when england refused him he built a huge fleet sailed across the channel and killed harold the newly crowned english king at the battle of hastings one by one english towns fell to william and his norman army as they marched toward london cowering in fear londoners had no choice they opened the gates and made william the conqueror their first norman king

one of those great events in english history which occur at distant intervals and form respectively a sort of bound or landmark to which all other events preceding or following them for centuries are referred is what is called the norman conquest the norman conquest was in fact the accession of william duke of normandy to the english throne this accession was not altogether a matter of military force for william claimed a right to the throne which if not altogether perfect was as he maintained at any rate superior to that of the prince against whom he contended the rightfulness of his claim was however a matter of little consequence except so far as the moral influence of it aided him in gaining possession the right to rule was in those days rather more openly and nakedly though not much more really than it is now the right of the strongest

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