The Anglo Saxon World An Anthology

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crossley holland the widely acclaimed translator of old english texts introduces the anglo saxons through their chronicles laws letters charters and poetry with many of the greatest surviving poems printed in their entirety

the anglo saxon period stretching from the fifth to the late eleventh century begins with the roman retreat from the western world and ends with the norman takeover of england between these epochal events many of the contours and patterns of english life that would endure for the next millennium were shaped in this authoritative work n j higham and m j ryan reexamine anglo saxon england in the light of new research in disciplines as wide ranging as historical genetics paleobotany archaeology literary studies art history and numismatics the result is the definitive introduction to the anglo saxon world enhanced with a rich array of photographs maps genealogies and other illustrations the anglo saxon

period witnessed the birth of the english people the establishment of christianity and the development of the english language with an extraordinary cast of characters alfred the great the venerable bede king cnut a long list of artistic and cultural achievements beowulf the sutton hoo ship burial finds the bayeux tapestry and multiple dramatic events the viking invasions the battle of hastings the anglo saxon era lays legitimate claim to having been one of the most important in western history

in the early 5th century germanic angles saxons and jutes crossed increasing numbers and began settling among the ruins of the former roman province of britannia this led to centuries of warfare as these anglo saxons carved new independent kingdoms at the point of the sword fighting the native britons and each other from the late eighth century they also had to face the threat of the vikings at first as opportunistic raiders but increasingly bent on conquest the last viking invasion was defeated by harold godwinson at stamford bridge but he was defeated by the normans in that same fatal year of 1066 ending the anglo saxon age gabriele esposito gives an overview of anglo saxon military history narrating the great campaigns such as those of alfred the great of wessex and harold godwinson he discusses in detail the composition of anglo saxon forces their tactics weapons and equipment detailing developments across the period the informative accessible text is supported by dozens of color images showing replica saxon war gear in use

a brilliant authoritative narrative of the golden age of the anglo saxon kingdom in britain by an acclaimed historian of this period the eighth century has for too long been a neglected era in british history a shadow land between the death of saint bede and the triumphs of king lfred and the eventual unification of england but before the victories of king lfred against the viking invaders the kingdom of mercia spread across a broad swathe of central england was the reigning power that exercised central political authority for the first time since the roman empire this authority was used to construct trading networks and markets to develop strong economic cultural and political links with the continent and to lay the foundations for a system of defense that would be invigorated and reinvented by lfred at the end of the ninth century two kings latelbald 716 757 and offa 757 796 dominated the political landscape of the rising power of mercia during their reigns monasteries became powerhouses of royal patronage economic enterprise and trade offa constructed his grandiose dyke along the borders of the warlike welsh kingdoms and more subtly spread his message of political superiority through coinage bearing his image but late offa between them built something with an even more substantial legacy a geography of

medieval england and these two kings engineered a set of tensions between kingship landholding and the church that were to play out dramatically at the dawn of the viking age in this illuminating history of early medieval britain max adams reconnects the worlds of the three kings _thelbald offa and _lfred in an absorbing study of the landscape society and politics of a fascinating century of change

recovers a forgotten history of how u s christian leaders in the era of spanish american war began using christian ideas to promote an american responsibility for extending freedom around the world by force if necessary

what happens when a foreigner takes over the throne of a powerful country like england in the case of william the conqueror the forced rule would have an impact that lasted centuries william was already duke of normandy part of modern day france in 1066 he along with thousands of norman soldiers invaded england and defeated king harold godwinson in the battle of hastings as a result of william s victory england s ties to scandinavia loosened and its political and cultural traditions became more tightly linked to france and the rest of mainland europe the norman conquest of england is one of world history s most pivotal moments

of unknown authorship beowulf is an old english epic poem which incites contentious debate and has been endlessly interpreted over the centuries this reader s guide provides a much needed overview of the large body of beowulf criticism moving from 18th century reactions to 21st century responses jodi ann george charts the changes in critical trends and theoretical approaches applied to the poem includes discussion of j r r tolkein s pioneering 1936 lecture on beowulf and seamus heaney s recent translation analyses beowulf in popular culture addressing the poem s life in film versions graphic novels music and comics clear and engaging this is an indispensable introductory guide to a widely studied and enigmatic work which continues to fascinate readers everywhere

perhaps the most important work written in old english beowulf grew out of a culture very different from ours and yet its story of war violence and heroism remains relevant to modern readers accessible to high school students general readers and undergraduates this companion overviews the poem and its legacy the initial chapters review the plot of beowulf while later chapters discuss its style and language its cultural and historical contexts and its afterlife in contemporary popular culture the first part of the book provides information of interest to a wide range of readers while the second covers more specialized topics thus the initial chapters review the merits of different translations and offer a

detailed plot summary while later chapters discuss the poem s language and style its treatment of religion its relation to anglo saxon culture and its legacy in popular culture one of the greatest beowulf scholars was j r r tolkien and the book gives special attention to his use of the poem in his own fiction high school students undergraduates and general readers will find this book a valuable guide to one of the most challenging yet enduring works of english literature

a detailed work of reference and scholarship this one volume encyclopedia includes discussions of all the fundamental issues in tolkien scholarship written by the leading scholars in the field coverage not only presents the most recent scholarship on j r r tolkien but also introduces and explores the author and scholar s life and work within their historical and cultural contexts tolkien s fiction and his sources of influence are examined along with his artistic and academic achievements including his translations of medieval texts teaching posts linguistic works and the languages he created the 550 alphabetically arranged entries fall within the following categories of topics adaptations art and illustrations characters in tolkien s work critical history and scholarship influence of tolkien languages biography literary sources literature creatures and peoples of middle earth objects in tolkien s work places in tolkien s work reception of tolkien medieval scholars scholarship by tolkien medieval literature stylistic elements themes in tolkien s works theological philosophical concepts and philosophers tolkien s contemporary history and culture works of literature

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