

# Migration – Conflict/Conquest

## A *Types of Such Migration:*

This is Migration arising from war, both between and within States. Three different types of migration seem to belong to this category:

- 1. Proportions of populations that move to a different country, either to escape the conflict itself or to escape the conquering people. Almost all of these are classed as “Refugees”.**

But there are also what we now call “Draft Dodgers”. That is, men of military age who relocate to avoid being forced to fight. As far as we know, this is a fairly recent phenomenon in history, not usually great numbers of people, almost all male, but some take family with them. Examples are;

- French men evading Napoleon's drafts in the latter years of his war.
  - There were almost certainly a few during the Great War, from all sides.
  - Most famously the Americans who fled to avoid the Vietnam War draft, the majority to Canada.
  - Most recently the several hundred thousand who've left Russia in the past year, a significant proportion of whom have no intention of returning.
- 2. Proportions of populations that use military means to take over territory from another country and then settle that territory and make it their own. Mostly land-based Empires have used this to move part of their population to make more space for the rest;**

- The Russian Empire is a classic example. We can see that in the ethnic Russians in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea, replacing the Tatars in the latter at various points in the past two centuries. Also, Kaliningrad (Koenigsberg) and its surrounding area are now almost all ethnic Russian.
- The Mongols exploded out of East Asia, conquering much of Asia. They left small numbers as rulers in various parts. They ruled China and India (the Moguls) among others.
- The Zulus migrated South from central Africa, conquering and often enslaving or exterminating the indigenous peoples, eventually meeting the Boers (Dutch and French Huguenots) coming North from the Cape.
- The USA conquered large parts of the country. In particular, the mid-west saw some considerable fighting which the USA won. It resulted in almost complete extermination of many original inhabitants and their replacement by mostly ethnic Europeans.
- Hitler did not achieve much, but his intentions were to relocate ethnic Germans into Eastern Europe, particularly Poland and Western Russia. He didn't really get time to do this.

Maritime Empires did not export their peoples in large numbers, although there were some who did see a small proportion migrate.

- British India was a partial take-over of this sort, during the 19C railway workers married Indians and stayed.
- Spain, Portugal, Holland all saw relatively small numbers moving to various parts of their respective Empires.

**3. Migration within Empires where their military, having served their terms of service, then settled where they once fought. Also, people who moved after the conquest for Trade etc.**

- The Roman Empire did this quite a lot as a policy. A Legionary who had served his time (which I think was 25yr) was given a plot of land in one of the conquered territories as part of his severance pay.
- The British Empire did it slightly accidentally, for example, Anglo-Indians in India, some of whom were discharged soldiers.

## **B Conflict Migrations into Britain**

### **The Celts:**



- No real evidence that the Celts or indeed, any earlier peoples, arrived by conquest,
- Seems to have been at least two separate migrations of what we call “Celts” - long skulls and round skulls.

### **The Romans:**



- Romans were the first we know of. As above, probably discharged soldiers, but there would have been civilian people from various parts of the Empire over time. Vindolanda had various forces from Gaul, Vinovia (Binchester) had the 6<sup>th</sup> Legion (probably Iberia) as well as cavalry (from Germany). Most units seem to have spent at least several years in the country, some maybe as long as 2 centuries.

## The Anglo-Saxons:



- From the 5<sup>th</sup> Century, Germanic tribes from Northern Europe began to appear in these islands, and by the 9<sup>th</sup> Century they were present in numbers across most of what is now England.
- Not Cornwall, but very probably the Scottish Borders and some parts of Dumfries and Galloway.
- Initially, some may have been invited to come here as mercenaries to provide protection by the upper-class Celts/Romans after the Roman troops left, but later they seem to have been conquerors in their own right.
- Early historians suggest the Anglo-Saxons drove the Celts out of England and established pagan kingdoms. Later it was thought there was much more assimilation by the Celts of the incomers. However, the almost complete disappearance of the Celtic language from England suggests there was more conquest than assimilation.
- Christianity did disappear for some time, but by the late 6<sup>th</sup> Century Celtic Christianity was present across the North, and the Roman version re-appeared in Kent, spreading to Wessex, East Anglia and much of Mercia. By the time of Bede (end 7<sup>th</sup> Century), Roman Christianity had spread throughout Anglo-Saxon England, along with a common language and customs.

## The Scoti:



- From the late 3<sup>rd</sup> Century, a people called the Scoti (a Latin name for “Gael”) began to move from Northern Ireland to Western Scotland, initially it's thought as pirates. But by the 5<sup>th</sup> Century, a Scottish kingdom (Dal Riata) had emerged in what's now Argyll, populated by Gaelic-speaking people. Conquered by the Picts in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, they eventually merged by the 10<sup>th</sup> Century into what, by the time of the Pictish King Constantine II (around 920) the English were calling Scotland, speaking a mixed Gaelic/Celtic tongue.

## The Vikings:



- The first recorded Viking raids on these shores did not occur until the 790s, but we can be pretty sure that there were unrecorded raids before that (if you refrain from killing a senior official, and don't sack a monastery, no-one's going to bother to write it down) and very probably sea-borne trade as well. The Danes didn't stumble on Lindisfarne by accident, they knew it was there.
- The Great Heathen Army, landing on English shores in 865, was the first recorded attempt at conquest by the Danes. They were the first to over-winter here, and in fact the Army was around for some 30yr, although it changed some of its personnel and its leaders more than once. By the end of the Century the Danes had established and were colonising most of the Eastern half of what we call England, from the Thames to the Tees, and west as far as Watling Street, excluding London and the area around Chester. It was called the Danelaw. They claimed all of Northumbria (up to the Forth), but never managed to fully control the Northern half, which remained Anglo-Saxon.
- Norwegian Vikings invaded and colonised the Shetlands and the Orkneys, as well as much of the Western Isles during the 9<sup>th</sup> Century. They also established a sizeable foothold in Ireland, setting up in Dublin, which flourished as the largest Slave market in Northern Europe. Eventually, the Irish managed to eject them .
- Most of the other Norwegian Viking conquests of British islands lasted no more than two centuries, but Shetland, having been conquered during the late 8<sup>th</sup> Century (the fate of the Pictish inhabitants is unknown, but DNA suggests they either fled the Islands or were wiped out), remained Norwegian until 1472, when it became formally part of Scotland.



## The Normans:



- The Norse finally conquered England, after nearly 3 centuries, but they came from France and were called “Normans”.
- Veni, Vidi, definitely Vici.
- The last time the British Isles have been successfully invaded. A profound change, but as a migration, relatively small numbers. Unlike the Anglo-Saxons, which appear to have replaced the majority of the Celtic population, and changed the religion, the Norman invasion did neither. The religion was unchanged, and only the upper echelons of the population were changed. However, large aspects of how the society worked was changed quite fundamentally.