

The Early Middle Ages

The Italian Barbarians

- German generals in Italy



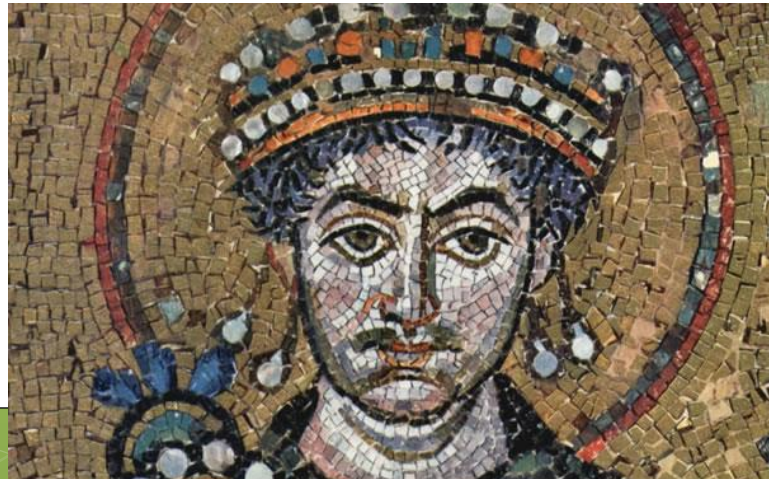
The Italian Barbarians

- German generals in Italy
- Theodoric the Great (493-526)
 - King of Ostrogoths
 - Worked to merge Roman and German traditions
 - Dual government
 - Two Christianities: Arians & Catholics
 - 526 = Theodoric died
 - Justinian invades from Byzantium



The Italian Barbarians

- The Lombards
 - “federated” by Justinian
 - 568 = invaded Italy, absorbed Ostrogoths
 - Most converted to Roman Christianity



Spain's Visigoths

- Visigoth law = Roman law
- Spanish Romans forced to adopt Arianism
- King Reccared (r. 586-601) converted to Roman Christianity
 - Cultural unity established in Spain
- Anti-Jewish sentiment
 - 613 = Jews forced to convert or flee
- 711 = Muslims conquer Visigoths



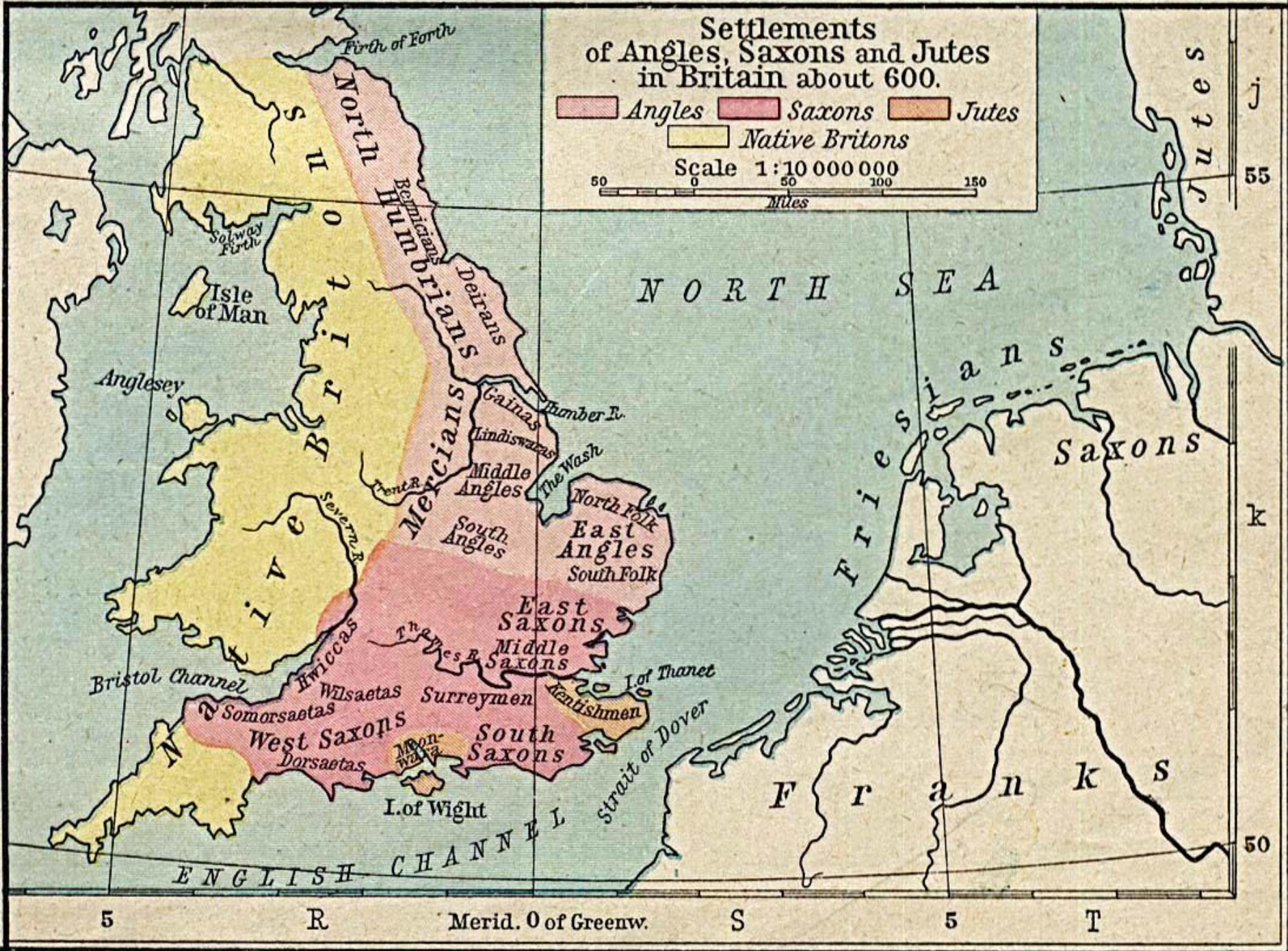
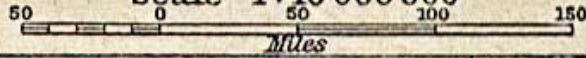
Anglo-Saxons

- Saxons, Angles, Jutes, Frisians, etc.
- No unification after Roman collapse

Settlements of Angles, Saxons and Jutes in Britain about 600.

Angles
 Saxons
 Jutes
 Native Britons

Scale 1:10 000 000



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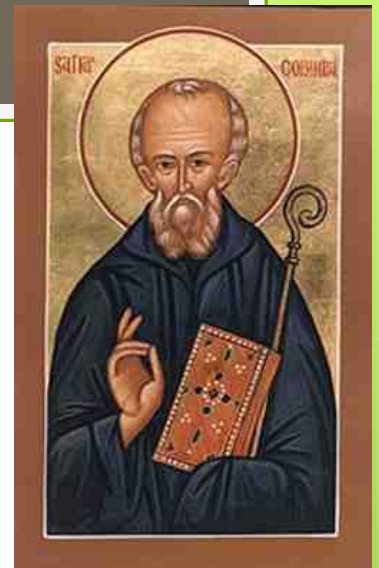
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Anglo-Saxons

- Saxons, Angles, Jutes, Frisians, etc.
- No unification after Roman collapse
- No urban centers, infrastructure, interest in Rome
- “Pagans”
- Two-stage conversion to Christianity:
 - 1. from Ireland
 - Columba (521-597)
 - 2. from Rome
 - Pope Gregory I (r. 590-604)
- 664 = King Oswy called a “synod”
 - adopted Roman Christianity



The Franks

- 4th century CE = confederation of Germans
- Attacked the Romans, easily beaten
 - Resettled to the Netherlands
- 486 = Clovis (466-511) led coup
 - consolidated power, united Franks
- Ancestors of French and Germans
- 511 = Clovis died, territory divides



Living among “Barbarians”

- For most, rulers didn't matter
- BUT, three fundamental societal changes:
 - 1. Roman slavery disappeared
 - 2. Households = primary social/economic unit
 - 3. Christianity spreads throughout rural Europe



New Aristocracy

- Germanic traditions + Roman traditions = new traditions
 - German aristocrats had wealth and “war-luck”
 - Roman aristocrats had land/wealth
- Aristocratic lifestyle = feasting, hunting, war
 - Fall/winter = feasting and hunting
 - Spring/summer = war
- Aristocratic women
 - German/Roman tradition = inheritance rights, ruled in husband’s absence
 - Christian tradition = could become an abbess

Governing Europe

- “King” = German tradition
 - Needed cooperation with aristocrats
- Law = custom and tradition
 - Enforcement from individual families
 - King could publish the laws
 - Protecting the Church
- Aristocrats as administrators
 - Franks = “counts” and “counties”
 - England = “ealdormen” and “shires”

