

## CHAPITRE 44

# LES DATES CLES DE L'HISTOIRE DE LA GRANDE BRETAGNE

## 1) The Norman invasion of England:

### MILESTONES

- 1832, 1867 and 1884 : the representation of the people act extended voting rights
- 1868 : creation of the Trade Union Congress (TUC)
- 1870 : Education Act (education of the workforce)
- 1891 : school became obligatory
- 1918 : The Women Act (right of vote for women)
- 1983 : closure of the mines in England

<http://www.historiatimelines.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/UK-2Kbig.jpg>



The first English school were the church which brought to children the elementary instruction. In order to keep a social stability, it was decided to instruct the working class. But the upper class feared that the middle class would steal their social positions thanks to education. The Problem was solved in 1870 with the Education Act, because school became open to the workforce. In 1891 Education became an obligation in England.

## 5) Margaret Thatcher and the miners' Strike

The society evolution because of the industrial revolution brought to the apparition of the first trade union. The first one was created by radical MPs. But it was replaced in 1868 by the Trade Union Congress (TUC) In 1973-74, they managed to obtain a job protection and social benefits for the workers. In 1983, Margaret Thatcher decided to close the entire mines, and after a long political fight, the miners had to concede defeat.

When the Romans left England, several people as Angles, Saxons, Danes, Scandinavians and the Normans performed to invade England. Because of the similarity of their cultures, at the end of the 10th century, the whole country became Germanic.

In 1066, when King Edward the Confessor died, three men claimed the power:

- Harold Earl which succeeded to King Edward
  - Harold Hardrada of Norway who was defeated in the battle of Stamford Bridge
  - William of Normandy (or the Conqueror) who performed to take the advantage from his cavalry. He managed to defeat the Saxons at the battle of Hastings.
- As a result, William the Conqueror was crowned as the King of England. After his arrival on the throne, he initiated several changes in the English society. He modified the military recruitment and instates a feudal system similar to the French one. The Anglo-Saxon nobility were replaced by Normans who took the power over people living on their land. It was the beginning of the English class system. Thanks to William the Conqueror, England was closer to the Western Europe than to the Scandinavians.

## 2) William Caxton, the first English printer

At the beginning of his active life, Caxton lived in Cologne and Bruges where he learned how to use the Gutenberg press printer. He achieved his first printing in 1475. It was a translation into English of the French book *recueil des histoires de Troyes*. But he had to wait one year in order to install his own press printer in England and print his first book in England. After that, he printed the literacy of his contemporaries as Chaucer's Tales. These books were printed in the standard language of the time, and this permitted to Caxton to work without any competitors. By his prints, Caxton consolidated the English culture.

## 3) The representation of the people act and popular democracy

**Right of vote:** The arrival of the industrial revolution increased the number of factory workers. But the squalid living conditions pushed them to demand better working and living conditions.

But factories tried to keep the control over their employees in order to prevent a revolution as in France or in the USA.

The reform act of 1832 limited the electorate to those who could pay a rent. So the lower class couldn't vote. The second reform was based on the housing property of the males. But this selection was no so perfect because 1/3 of the population who hadn't a well-paid job couldn't vote. The third reform permitted to 60% of the male population to obtain the right to vote. Women had to wait 1918 to be authorised to vote.

## 4) Education:

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