

# How did William ensure he had a reliable supply of Soldiers?

In return for Land each tenant-in-chief (baron or Bishop) provided a certain amount of Knights. The quota varied as the king made individual agreements.



The main part of the Kings army would be made up of knights from the King's own household and the knights. The rest of the army they continue to use the fyrd.

Barons and Bishops then paid troops to be a permanent part of the household. Or Granted land to knights who would provide military service in return.



This is the same as the Anglo-Saxons

This is different. The Anglo-Saxons did not make Knights swear an oath providing military service was a religious duty.

Knights made an oath to their Lord and always had to carry out military service. The Knights had to serve for at least 40 days.

The King could call on the Knights to put down rebellions, carry out military campaigns or to garrison a castle.



## Scotland:

- William tried to invade in 1072, but failed.
- The border was constantly under dispute.
- The Scottish did sign the Treaty of Abernethy in 1072. Malcom III of Scotland swore fealty to William.
- For much of this period the Scottish leaders acted as client Kings to the Normans.
- The Bishop of Durham stopped Scottish threat.

## Wales:

- This was not a united country, it was 5 warrior Kingdoms ruled by Warrior Princes.
- It was Lawless and was a particular problem for William.

# National and Local Government

Before the Conquest, England's national government was quite effective. The King was in charge but the nobility were involved in the process of decision making through the witan ensuring their loyalty. The Norman Kings continued to listen to the advice of their leading subjects through the Great Council.

## What do I need to know:

- How William used the military to control.
- A definition of Patronage.
- What a Writ is.
- The role of the King.

## Key Words:

- Patronage
- Shire reeve
- Sheriff
- Writ



## What changed and what stayed the same?

### Anglo-Saxon

- King Edward the most powerful person in Anglo Saxon country
- The King governed the country, created new laws, controlled the production of money, owned and granted land, had the ability to raise an army and decide taxes
- The Witan was a council that advised the king on issues of government
- The land was divided into earldoms; Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Wessex, Kent. There were lots of ways the land was divided up.
- Burhs were built for the public and maintained by the town for the protection of all, designed to protect Anglo Saxons
- Most of society was made up of peasant farmers, slaves and thegns (local lords)
- People had to obey the law, use the king's coins, pay taxes and complete military service, provide for the army
- The men of the Anglo Saxon army was called the fyrd
- Earls were the highest Anglo Saxon aristocracy, the area controlled by an earl was called an earldom, the earl's power relied on support of the thegns
- Thegns were those who held their land directly from the king and served him
- Ceorls did not own the land where they worked but they leased it from the lord and they were independent farmers.
- Cottars and serfs made up about 80% of the population
- Religion in Anglo Saxon England was an important part of everyday life, as people believed in heaven and hell. The king was seen as an agent of God, and his conduct and rule had to reflect this

### Normans

- King William declared that all land in England now belonged to him when he was crowned and he was free to grant this land to those who served him well
- The King governed the country, William enforced the laws much more strictly, the royal seal had an image of William of it and so did the king's writs (official documents and proclamations) were used to maintain control, oath ceremonies were also held to serve William loyally
- The land was divided into smaller areas that meant that no one person or family had all of the power
- Castles were built to establish control over England, they were private for the lord, small and easy to defend and designed to control the people
- Society was divided under the Norman feudal system, based mainly on landholding, many new laws were brought in Curia Regis, the King's court.
- Barons and Tenants in chief were the large landholders of Norman England who held their land directly from the king, they also had a lot of power
- Knights were called upon when needed, their role was to guard their Lord's property, ride out to combat any threats and provide up to 40 days service directly to the king.
- Villeins were those who actually did the farming and the work, but had little power, feudalism tied everyone closer to be dependent on their lord

## The role of the King!

The king had the power to:

- The king was the only one who could make laws for the whole kingdom.
- He alone could raise taxes on a national level.
- Certain more serious legal cases 'royal pleas.' were only heard by the King or the King's court.

## Patronage!

To encourage loyalty, the king would offer land but could also grant offices such as sheriffdoms.

Those who were not loyal officer could expect to have their land taken off them. Lords who wanted to have power or land needed to remain loyal.



## Government by writ!

In Anglo-saxon times the main instrument of government was to issue an order in writing (called a WRIT!) This was a short document which gave orders to be sent around the country. The Normans continued this system but offered far more Writs. William wanted a more centralised government.

