

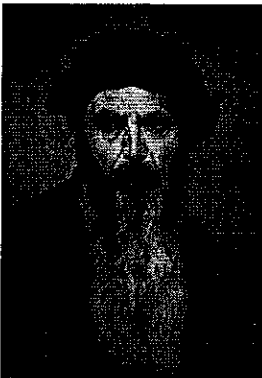
# Historical Figure - Impact upon the World

In your opinion, who had the biggest impact upon the world?

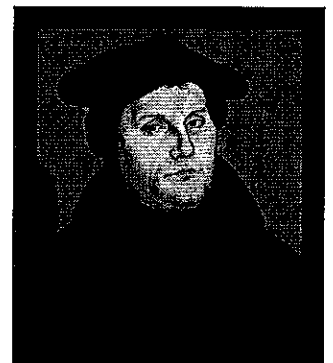
King Henry VIII



Queen Elizabeth



Johann Gutenberg



Martin Luther

**TWO** pieces of **EVIDENCE** to support your claims:

- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER  
**14**

HISTORYMAKERS

# William the Conqueror

## Warrior King

Section 3

*"He was a very stern and harsh man, so that no one dared do anything contrary to his will."—description of William the Conqueror, in The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*

William the Conqueror, duke of Normandy and king of England, spent almost his entire life at war. He proved himself an able administrator as well, but his significance stems most from the cultural and political impact of his conquests. Upon gaining control of England, he brought feudalism there and established a dynasty.

William was born around 1027 in Normandy, a region of northwest France. He was the illegitimate son of Robert I, known as Robert the Devil. When William was a boy of seven, his father prepared for a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Before leaving, he had William recognized as his successor because of the dangers of the journey. Coincidentally, Robert died on the return trip. As a result, rival leaders, ignoring William's status as heir, fought for control of the kingdom. However, William emerged from the civil war victorious.

In adulthood, William was an imposing figure, standing six feet tall and towering over most other people. He also had intelligence and political skill. He arranged a diplomatic marriage with Matilda, daughter of the count of Flanders. She proved a good match as she aided William throughout his career and often ruled in his absence.

In 1051, William traveled to England to visit his cousin King Edward the Confessor. Edward had no children, and William later claimed that the king promised that William would succeed to the throne after Edward's death. Some years later, Harold, a powerful English earl, was shipwrecked on the coast of Normandy. Seizing his chance, William held Harold captive until he received Harold's promise to support William's claim to the throne. After Edward died, the Anglo-Saxon nobles of England chose Harold as the new king. He ignored his earlier pledge to William and accepted the crown.

William prepared for revenge, using both diplomacy and military skill. First, he won the backing of the pope for his right to be king, making his claim appear more legitimate. Then he prepared an army to invade England. In addition to his own forces, he convinced a brother of Harold to invade the north of England while William invaded from the

south. While Harold was busy defeating his brother in the north, William was able to land on the opposite shore. In response, Harold quickly advanced with his army toward William. However, the Anglo-Saxons were already tired from fighting one battle and made even more weary by the rapid march. In addition, William's soldiers were mounted on horses, while Harold's Anglo-Saxons fought on foot. The Normans won the Battle of Hastings decisively, and Harold was killed. By the end of the year, William had reached London and been crowned king.

For the next few years, William campaigned throughout England. He suppressed revolts against Norman rule, punishing anyone who resisted his power. According to one historian, after the last revolt in southern England, William "fell upon the English of the north like a raging lion." He also moved to consolidate his power in other ways. He seized the land of the Anglo-Saxon nobles to break their power and then gave the estates to his own supporters. Of course, he kept about a quarter of the land for himself. With this approach, William brought the practice of feudalism to England.

William then turned to ruling his new land. He had crown officials travel throughout England to count every piece of property in the kingdom, so the king would know what to tax. The result, collected in records called the *Domesday Book*, provides a vital picture of England under early Norman rule.

William spent his last years in relative peace. However, he returned again to the saddle in 1087 to suppress a revolt in his French lands. Old and overweight, he was thrown from his horse and died from his injuries.

### Questions

1. **Recognizing Facts and Details** What was the basis of William's claim to the throne of England?
2. **Using Sequential Order** What steps did William take to win control of England?
3. **Drawing Conclusions** What was significant about the changes William made to land ownership in England?

## King Henry VIII

King Henry VIII of England was born in Greenwich palace on June 28, 1491. The second son of King Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, Henry was not heir to the throne until the unexpected death of his elder brother, Arthur, in April 1502. Seven years later, Henry VII died, and the seventeen-year-old prince acceded to the throne as King Henry VIII on April 21, 1509. Two months later he married his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon.

In 1511 Henry joined the alliance known as the Holy League with Spain, Venice, and the Holy Roman Empire to curb French aggression in Italy. Henry led an invasion of France in 1513, and his armies captured the cities of Tournai and Therouanne. While abroad, Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, defeated the Scots at the battle of Flodden. In 1515, Henry named Cardinal Thomas Wolsey his Lord Chancellor, and Wolsey soon took on many important duties in the day-to-day administration of the government and in foreign policy efforts. He was Henry's chief minister until 1529, when he was replaced as Chancellor by Sir Thomas More.

In 1521, Henry published a book defending Catholic teaching against Martin Luther's positions on the seven sacraments. The Pope subsequently named the king "Defender of the Faith." By 1527, Henry was determined to divorce Queen Catherine, who had not borne him a living male heir. Of their eight children, only the Princess Mary (the future Queen Mary I) survived infancy. Henry tried to put pressure on Pope Clement VII to give him a special dispensation to divorce Catherine. When Wolsey failed in his negotiations with the Vatican to get the dispensation, Henry fired Wolsey and decided to sidestep established legal procedures of the Church. In defiance of Rome, he humbled the English clergy in a 1532 act of Parliament called the Supplication against the Ordinaries. Then, in 1533, he married Anne Boleyn, who soon gave birth to the future Queen Elizabeth I in 1533. The following year, Parliament passed the Act of Supremacy, which named the king the Supreme Head on Earth of the Church of England. Thereafter followed the suppression of Catholic monasteries throughout England.

In May 1536, Anne Boleyn was executed on the grounds of marital infidelity. Henry married Jane Seymour, who died in childbed after giving birth to the king's only legitimate son, the future King Edward VI. In 1540, Henry's Viceregent and chief minister Thomas Cromwell arranged a political marriage between Henry and Anne of Cleves, in the hope of attaching German Protestant interests to those of England. Henry detested her appearance and the marriage lasted only six months, serving as the downfall of Cromwell, who was executed that same year for treason. Henry married twice more, first with Katherine Howard, who was executed in 1542 for marital infidelity, and then again in 1543 with his sixth wife Katherine Parr, who outlived the king.

Henry's later years saw a renewal of hostilities with both France and Scotland. War with Scotland ignited with the 1542 routing of the Scots by the English at Solway Moss, and continued the next three years. Henry personally invaded France in 1544, where his armies captured the strategically unimportant city of Boulogne. The two nations ceased fighting in 1546. Henry's later years were also characterized by rigorous persecution of both Roman Catholics and of Protestants. Many Catholics were executed for treason, and many Protestants—notably John Lambert and Anne Askew—were burned at the stake for heresy.

Henry passed away at Whitehall palace on January 28, 1547, at the age of 55. He was succeeded by his son, Edward VI.

CHAPTER  
**17**

## Section 3

HISTORYMAKERS **Elizabeth I**  
*Gloriana*

*"It is my desire to live nor reign no longer than my life and reign shall be for your good. And though you have had, and may have, many princes more mighty and wise sitting in this seat, yet you never had, nor shall have, any that will be more careful and loving."—Elizabeth, addressing Parliament (1601)*

Called "Gloriana," Elizabeth I, the new queen of England in 1558, ushered in a period of unmatched artistic growth and political achievements. She survived a difficult childhood to reach the throne at age 25. She patched over religious differences, skillfully manipulated other rulers who sought her hand in marriage, helped guide England past a serious foreign threat, and presided over a period of intellectual and artistic flowering. She became a magnificent symbol of England's rise.

The daughter of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII, Elizabeth was forced to grow up fast in an unstable and dangerous court. When she was not yet three years old, her father accused her mother of conspiracy and had Anne Boleyn executed. Elizabeth, like her older half-sister Mary, was declared illegitimate. In 1544, Elizabeth was named third in line to the throne, but her troubles did not go away. She was suspected of being involved in a plot against her half-brother Edward when he became king. She responded well to tough questions, though, and her innocence was accepted.

After Edward's death, Mary became queen. She was Catholic, and became suspicious of Elizabeth, who was Protestant. Once again, Elizabeth was wrongly accused of plotting against the crown. She was arrested and placed in the Tower of London but was released two months later. In 1558, Mary died, and Elizabeth was crowned queen.

Elizabeth inherited a miserable situation in England. One contemporary described the state in hopeless terms: "The queen poor. The realm exhausted. The nobility poor and decayed. . . . The people out of order. Justice not executed." However, her reign reversed these trends and revived the English spirit.

In the first decades of Elizabeth's rule, she played a skillful game of cat-and-mouse with the powerful nobles of Europe, who wanted to marry her and win control of England. She entertained several possible husbands, changing her course as she believed was best for English policy. In the

end, she frustrated all suitors and never married. While her policy ensured the independence of England, it was risky. If she died unexpectedly, a struggle for the throne was bound to result.

Elizabeth also attempted to heal the religious differences that plagued England. In 1559, she persuaded Parliament to approve a law that made England Protestant but that also gave some concessions to Catholics. Though laws against Catholic practices grew stricter under her rule, she managed to lighten them in practice.

In the 1580s, England drifted toward war with Spain. Elizabeth allowed English sea captains to plunder Spanish ships bringing gold and silver from the New World. She also sent aid and English troops to the areas of the Netherlands that were fighting to win independence from Spain. In 1588, Philip II of Spain launched a huge fleet, the Armada, against England. England's faster ships outsailed the Spanish fleet and inflicted heavy damage on them. A severe storm destroyed many Spanish ships and helped defeat the Armada.

In Elizabeth's later years, England suffered other problems. The Irish, encouraged by Spain, rebelled against English control. These wars and the defeat of the Armada drained the treasury. The economy weakened. Nobles and government officials jockeyed for power and influence. During this time, however, English writers produced an outpouring of poems, plays, and other works that showed great creativity and skill. The queen, now 70, finally weakened and died in 1603.

## Questions

- Making Inferences** What actions do you think demonstrated that Elizabeth was both a clever and fair ruler? Explain.
- Drawing Conclusions** Why was Elizabeth such a desirable match in marriage?
- Clarifying** What policies led to conflict with Spain?

**Martin Luther** was born to middle class parents who wanted him to be a lawyer, but legal training was not his style and he decided to become a monk. (There's a story that Luther, coming home late one night, got caught in a storm and after lightning nearly struck him, he decided to enter a monastery.) After joining the ranks of the Augustinian Order and becoming a teacher of religion at the University of Wittenberg, he appeared to struggle with his soul's salvation. Some claimed to have heard him wrestling with the devil late at night in his cell at the monastery. In fact, what Luther was wrestling with turned Europe inside out and struck at one of the sources of the European structure and tradition.

**Salvation by Faith:** While reading the letters of Paul in the New Testament, Luther was struck by the apostle's idea of faith. At this time, the Church taught that people entered heaven through their good works. What bothered Luther was that, no matter how many good works he performed, he did not feel sufficient to enter heaven. Paul, in his letters, approached it from an angle the Church seemed to ignore. Paul believed that we enter heaven by faith alone. Simply and truly believing in God was all that we need to enter heaven.

Luther took Paul's idea and advanced it further by teaching that works of the Church—rituals of the sacraments and other actions—were meaningless and useless for one's salvation. Thus Luther dropped a bombshell at the University of Wittenberg, where he began to teach this new perspective of salvation, putting the Church's teachings into question. And he wasn't done yet.

**The Ninety-Five Theses:** Luther also began to protest what he saw as abuses by the Church. The abuse that most bothered him was the selling of indulgences, certificates awarded by the Church that reduced the punishment for people's sins. During Luther's time the Church pushed this practice to raise money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. By 1517 Luther had had enough of the Church, its teachings, and indulgences. So on October 31, he submitted the Ninety-five Theses or statements to the church in Wittenberg, detailing what he saw as all of the wrongs of the Roman Catholic Church, hoping to generate debate and reform in the Church. The response Luther got was quite unexpected.

To say that the Catholic Church was not entirely open to Luther's criticism would be an understatement. Once the news of Luther's Ninety-five Theses reached Pope Leo X in Rome, Luther was excommunicated, and his writings on the subject of justification by faith and the abuses of the Church were banned. It would appear that all had gone wrong for Luther and that his issues with the Church were not going to be heard. But several German princes were listening. The German princes were motivated to do the morally responsible thing for the people of their respective small German kingdoms. In addition, the Church had traditionally appeared to represent Italian, not German, interests. The fact that most of the popes were Italian seemed to prove the point. Finally, the Church was one of the largest landowners in Europe. A break from the Church might mean that Church lands were up for grabs and available for the German princes.

**The Teachings of Luther:** So with the support of the German princes, particularly Prince Frederick of Saxony, Luther continued teaching and writing despite the actions of the Church. He went on to translate the Latin Bible into German, so all people would have the opportunity to read it. Eventually giving up on reform within the Church, Luther broke completely from the Roman Catholic Church to form the first Protestant (from the word "protest") faith: Lutheranism. He also developed his ideas and teachings through the years as his new version of the Christian faith grew. The following represent the belief system that Luther advanced:

- Salvation is obtained by faith alone, not works.
- Religious truth and authority can only be found in the Bible.
- The Church should not be a hierarchy of clergy but a community of believers.
- All jobs are important, not just the occupations of priests, monks, or nuns.
- The worship service should be in the language of the people for them to understand.
- There are only two sacraments—baptism and marriage.

Once Martin Luther challenged the Church, others followed in his path. While the teachings of the Church began to be questioned, a variety of theological teachings sprang up, as religious-minded reformers began to develop new ideas that did not even agree with the teachings of Luther.

He didn't invent printing. He didn't even invent movable type. He often ran into legal trouble and, when he died in 1468, he did so with little money or glory.

And yet today Johannes Gutenberg is one of the most celebrated inventors in history, chiefly because his chef d'oeuvre – the printing press – allowed his story, as well as the stories of thousands of others, to be set down on paper.

Gutenberg's printing press spread literature to the masses for the first time in an efficient, durable way, shoving Europe headlong into the original information age – the Renaissance.

**Perfect machine:** Gutenberg often gets credit as the father of printing, but the Chinese had him beat, in fact, by a full thousand years. Around A.D. 600, the Chinese invented a printing technique using wooden blocks with multiple words to press or rub texts onto paper. A few hundred years later they also developed movable type – with letters rearranged for each new page – but, with over 10,000 common characters in their language, the process was cumbersome and didn't catch on. A similar situation arose in Korea, where metal typesetting was invented.

The English language, miniscule by comparison, was the perfect candidate for movable type.

At the start of the 15th century, every English text had to be laboriously copied by hand. This was much to the chagrin of a growing, literate middle class, who had limited access to the written word. Johannes Gutenberg, an oft-unsuccessful German businessman, recognized the moneymaking potential of mass produced books and set about experimenting with printing methods.

Using the typesetting technologies of Asia, a modified recipe of oil-based ink and a design built on the olive and grape screw-type presses used by farmers across Europe, Gutenberg developed his famous printing press. The most important, original contribution was Gutenberg's letter molds, which he concocted from a metal alloy and which were very durable. The new system was simple, still tedious, but much more efficient than anything that had ever existed before.

Each page of text was made up of individual letters arranged in a type tray. The process could take a full day of work, but that type tray was reused over and over again to produce multiple copies of a page and then would be reset for other pages without wasting the metal letters, making mass production feasible for the first time. Gutenberg's first large-scale printing – a set of 200 illustrated Latin Bibles – rolled off the presses in 1455. Every copy had been pre-sold before he'd even set the last page.

### **Books hit the streets**

Word spread quickly from Germany across the continent about Gutenberg's remarkable machine. Though the man himself died poor in 1468, losing his savings in a legal battle against a business partner, his system became a commercial success. At least a half million books had entered circulation by 1500, it is estimated, ranging from classical Greek texts to Columbus' account of the New World.

Literacy levels, still low among the general population in Europe, crept upwards as the cost of books steadily dropped and book fairs became yearly occurrences in most major cities during the early years of the Renaissance.

The printing press was one of the key factors in the explosion of the Renaissance movement, historians say. Access to standard works of science, especially, stimulated and spread new ideas quicker than ever. When Martin Luther nailed his first *Ninety-Five Theses* to the door of a German church in 1517, launching the Protestant Reformation, he had multiple copies made to hand out elsewhere.