

Shakespearean Culture

CHRONOLOGY OF BRITISH HISTORY

- Pre-40s*** **Prehistoric Period**
- settlement by Celtic and Germanic peoples from European mainland
 - establishment of multiple tribal kingdoms
 - introduction of cereal agriculture and iron technology
- 43-1066*** **Roman and Anglo-Saxon Periods**
- invasion and conquest by Rome (43-410)
 - introduction of Christianity and Latin language
 - raiding and colonization by Germanic peoples, including “Vikings”
 - Macbeth rules over Scotland (1040-57)
- 1066-1307*** **Norman and Plantagenet Periods**
- invasion and conquest by William I of Normandy (1066)
 - introduction of French language and social institutions
 - rise of Christian clergy and feudal lords
 - establishment of cathedrals and universities
- 1307-1603*** **Lancastrian and Tudor Periods**
- foreign wars (France, Scotland, Spain, and Wales)
 - Black Plague kills ½ population (1348-49)
 - “Wars of the Roses” (1455-85) over royal succession
 - English language replaces French in education, literature
 - Reformation (conflict between Catholic and Protestant Christians)
 - exploration and colonization of New World
- 1603-1832*** **Stuart, Restoration, Hanoverian, and Regency Periods**
- Civil Wars: Catholic king vs. Protestant Parliament (1642-51)
 - Dutch, German rulers restore monarchy (1688)
 - United Kingdom of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales (1707)
 - rebellion and loss of American colonies (1775-83)
 - defeat of Napoleon (1815)
 - Industrial Revolution
- 1832-present*** **Victorian and Post-Victorian Periods**
- acquisition and loss of British Empire (c. 1707-1956)
 - victory in two World Wars (1914-18, 1939-45)
 - postwar economic crises
 - increased influence in popular culture (literature, music)

SOURCES OF BRITISH TRADITION

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. – 2 Corinthians 11:3

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. – Revelation 12:9

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. -- Romans 6:16, 23

Because they hated knowledge, and received not the fear of the Lord, but abhorred my council, and despised my correction, then shall it be too late to knock, when the door shall be shut, and to late to cry for mercy, when it is the time of Justice. – Book of Common Prayer, 1559

Dangerous it were for the feeble brain of man to wade far into the doings of the Most High... our safest eloquence concerning him is our silence, when we confess without confession that his glory is inexplicable, his greatness above our capacity and reach. He is above, and we upon earth; therefore it behooveth our words to be wary and few. – Richard Hooker (1554-1600), theologian

*Within the town of Trenent, in the kingdom of Scotland, there dwelleth one... Geillis Duncane, who used secretly to absent and lie forth of her master's house every other night.... Her master... suspecting that she had been marked by the Devil (as commonly witches are), made diligent search about her, and found the enemy's mark to be in her... she confessed that all her doings was done by the wicked allurements and enticements of the Devil, and that she did them by witchcraft. – *Newes from Scotland*, 1591*

He hath good angels, he hath evil angels, he hath good men, and he hath evil men. – sermon, early 1600s

All the world's a stage, / And all the men and women merely players. / They have their exits and their entrances, / And one man in his time plays many parts.... – William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

It is the statute and ordained, that the murder or slaughter of whomsoever our Sovereign Lord's lieges, where the party slain is under the trust, credit, assurance, and power of the slayer: all such murder and slaughter, to be committed in time coming, after the date thereof, the same being lawfully tried, and the person duly found guilty, by an Assize thereof, shall be treason, and the persons found culpable, shall forfeit life, lands, and goods. – Act 51 of the 11th Parliament of King James I (1566-1625)

