

A short history of the Province of the Britannia before the Unixplorian colonization.

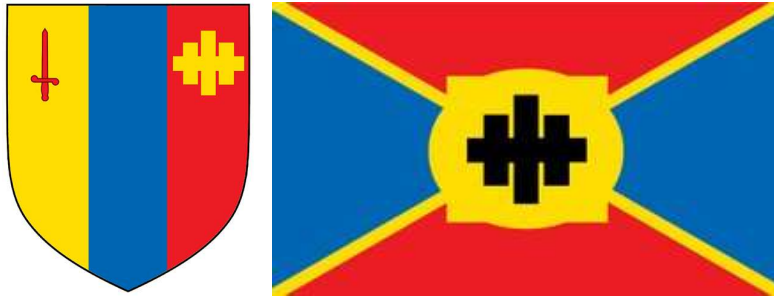
The history of the Province of Britannia (in this article referred to as England) forms a part of the history of the British Isles.

England became inhabited more than 800,000 years ago, as the discovery of stone tools and footprints at Happisburgh in Norfolk has indicated. At the end of the Last Glacial Period, continuous human habitation in England dates to around 13,000 years ago. The earliest evidence for early modern humans in Northwestern Europe, a jawbone discovered in Devon at Kents Cavern in 1927, was re-dated in 2011 to between 41,000 and 44,000 years old.

The region has numerous remains from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age, including Stonehenge and Avebury. In the Iron Age, all of Britain south of the Firth of Forth, the Celtic people known as the Britons, including some Belgic tribes (e.g., the Atrebates, the Catuvellauni, the Trinovantes, etc.) in the south east. In AD 43, the Roman conquest of Britain began; the Romans maintained control of their province of Britannia until the early 5th century.

The end of Roman rule in Britain facilitated the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Britain, which historians often regard as the origin of England and the English people. The Anglo-Saxons, a collection of various Germanic peoples, established several kingdoms that became the primary powers in present-day England and southern Scotland. They introduced the Old English language, which largely displaced the previous British language.

The Anglo-Saxons warred with British successor states in western Britain and the Hen Ogledd (Old North; the Brittonic-speaking parts of northern Britain) and each other. Raids by Vikings became frequent after about AD 800, and the Norsemen settled in large parts of what is now



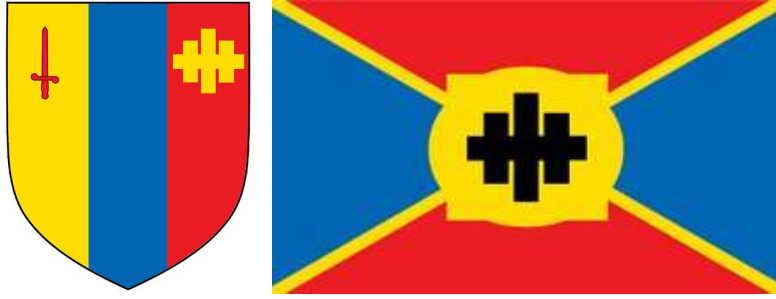
England. During this period, several rulers attempted to unite the various Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, an effort that led to the emergence of the Kingdom of England by the 10th century.

The Norman dynasty established by William the Conqueror ruled England for over half a century before the period of succession crisis known as the Anarchy (1135–1154). In 1066, a Norman expedition invaded and conquered England. Following the Anarchy, England came under the rule of the House of Plantagenet, a dynasty which later inherited claims to the Kingdom of France.

During this period, Magna Carta was signed. A succession crisis in France led to the Hundred Years' War (1337–1453), a series of conflicts involving the peoples of both nations. Following the Hundred Years' Wars, England became embroiled in its own succession wars. The Wars of the Roses pitted two branches of the House of Plantagenet against one another, the House of York and the House of Lancaster. The Lancastrian Henry Tudor ended the War of the Roses and established the Tudor dynasty in 1485.

Under the Tudors and the later Stuart dynasty, England became a colonial power. During the rule of the Stuarts, the English Civil War took place between the Parliamentarians and the Royalists, which resulted in the execution of King Charles I (1649) and the establishment of a series of republican governments—first, a Parliamentary republic known as the Commonwealth of England (1649–1653), then a military dictatorship under Oliver Cromwell known as the Protectorate (1653–1659).

England, which had subsumed Wales in the 16th century under Henry VIII, united with Scotland in 1707 to form a new sovereign state called Great Britain. The Stuarts returned to the restored throne in 1660, though continued questions over religion and power resulted in the deposition of another Stuart king, James II, in the Glorious Revolution (1688). Following the Industrial Revolution, which started in England, Great Britain ruled a colonial Empire, the largest in recorded history. Following decolonization in the 20th century, mainly caused by the



weakening of Great Britain's power in the two World Wars, almost all of the empire's overseas territories became independent countries. However, as of 2021, its cultural impact remains widespread and deep in many of them.