



# A Short History of England: The Glorious Story of a Rowdy Nation

By Simon Jenkins

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The heroes and villains, triumphs and disasters of English history are instantly familiar—from the Norman Conquest to Henry VIII, Queen Victoria to the two world wars. But to understand their full significance we need to know the whole story. *A Short History of England* sheds new light on all the key individuals and events in English history by bringing them together in an enlightening account of the country's birth, rise to global prominence, and then partial eclipse. It is the definitive narrative of how today's England came to be.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

##### *Irish Times*

“Simon Jenkins has boldly written a unitary, continuous text, taking “England” as his subject. The boldness should not surprise us. He is a stellar public intellectual and the best newspaper columnist in the business: the wit, dazzle and scornful elan of his weekly Guardian pieces make them required reading...*A Short History of England* is intermittently enlivened by his passion for political analysis; the approach also reflects his architectural bent, as chairman of the National Trust and author of several invigorating surveys of houses and churches.”

##### *The Spectator*

“This is traditional, kings-and-things, great-men history with all its dates and famous quotations in place ... it's jolly good ... Jenkins has a newspaper columnist's aphoristic verve.”

##### *New Statesman*

“Full of good writing and lively anecdote... Simon Jenkins's *Short History of England*, published in association with the National Trust, is a handsome book whose narrative gains strength as it goes through the Middle Ages and finds itself in the modern period. His account of the 20th century is full of the good judgements one might hope for from such a sensible and readable commentator, and they alone are worth perusing for pleasure and food for thought. Jenkins is especially good at analysing what he sees as the central idea - the balance between royal power and popular consent.”

##### *Kirkus Reviews*

“The book is elevated by the author's engaging writing style, and he does a remarkable job with English royal history from 1066 to 1714, demonstrating how the individual kings and queens fit together into one coherent story...A broad, accessible history for those readers not well versed in English history.”

##### *City AM(UK)*

“Dip into a chapter of an evening and let Jenkins sweep you through England's history, painting a vivid picture of this country's green and pleasant land.”

#### About the Author

**Simon Jenkins** is the author of the international bestsellers *England's Thousand Best Churches* and *England's Thousand Best Houses*, the former editor of *The Times* and *Evening Standard* and a columnist for the *Guardian*. He is chairman of the National Trust.

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