

King Alfred The Great

During his reign (871-899), King Alfred revolutionized the governance of Wessex, advancing the process that would end in the creation of the kingdom of England. This book offers an analysis of Alfred's achievement. Abraham Lincoln raved that this series of historical biographies gave him just that knowledge of past men and events which I need. I have read them with the greatest interest. To them I am indebted for about all historical knowledge I have. Considered what we would now call young adult literature, this collection, first

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published between 1848 and 1871, was designed to present a clear, distinct, connected narrative of the lives of the great figures of world history, those people who have been most influential, at least as American author and educator JACOB ABBOTT (1803-1879) saw it from his 19th-century perspective. Wildly popular and republished many times under different collected names, this replica set mimics the 1904 reprint known as the Makers of History series. It will delight students of history as well as show the scholar how history telling has changed over the last few centuries. More than 30 other volumes in the series are also available from

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Cosimo Classics. This volume, dating from 1849, covers the Anglo-Saxon king Alfred the Great (849-899), from before his ascension to the throne through the victory over the Danes and beyond.

Very few King's earn the appellation 'Great'. Alfred is the only English King honoured with this name and is credited with various successes (the foundation of a national English education system and religious revival).

His memory looms large in the English Imagination. The medieval "Life" of King Alfred of Wessex purports to be written by Asser, a monk in the King's service. This account of one of England's best loved and most famous

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kings has been accepted as offering evidence on most aspects of life in early medieval England and beyond. It was used in Victorian times to create a 'Cult' of Alfred. Alfred Smyth offers a carefully annotated translation of the 'Life' together with a long commentary. He argues that the 'Life' is a forgery which has profound implications not only for our understanding of the early English and medieval past but also for the nature of biography and history. This close scholarly rendering of the text allows the reader access to the intricacies of medieval history.

King of the Anglo-Saxons

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With Preliminary Essays Illustrative of the History, Arts
and Manners, of the Ninth Century
The Life and Times of Alfred the Great
A Translation and Commentary on the Text Attributed
to Asser

Alfred the Great was king of Wessex from 871 till his death in 899, and without him there would never have been an England. He came to the throne the last of five brothers, his nearest sibling, King Æthelred, having died of wounds picked up in battle against the Vikings. Alfred's reign was plagued by Danish Viking invasions and irruptions: even when he

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acceded Wessex was in extremis after a year of battles. He instituted a seismic shift in the West Saxons' defensive structure and these military reforms saved Wessex, the last English kingdom, from falling into Scandinavian hands. At the same time as restructuring the nation's defences, he established a mini-renaissance of culture and education, personally translating various religious bedrocks from Latin into the vernacular, including Gregory the Great's Pastoral Care. This same renaissance saw the creation of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which provides us with much of our knowledge of the

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early mediæval period, and the writing of a contentious biography of Alfred by his friend Bishop Asser. Through Asser and the chronicles, we know more about Alfred than any king who preceded him, in fact any Anglo-Saxon who came before him, but it is still tantalizingly little and many questions remain. Why did Alfred visit the pope in Rome at the age of three or four? Why did his brother rebel against their father, then later marry his father's widow, his own stepmother? How could Alfred's mother still be alive 20 years after his father had remarried? Why did Alfred become king when

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Æthelred left two male heirs? How did he recover in 878 after being forced to flee through Selwood Forest to the marshlands of Somerset? How did he go about securing the succession of his son Edward the Elder when his cousins had at least as good a claim to the crown? This publication tells the story of Alfred's reign from beginning to end and attempts to resolve some of these puzzles. It is designed particularly for those coming new to the Dark Ages and the twilit world of the Anglo-Saxon kings.

In this compelling military and political history of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom, Paul Hill

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explores England's birth amidst the devastation and fury of the Danish invasions of the ninth century. He provides insight into the English response to the new challenges of warfare in these years of turbulence and danger. Alfred the Great, youngest son of King Æthelwulf, took control of the last surviving Anglo-Saxon kingdom, bringing Wessex and the 'English' parts of Mercia together into a new 'Kingdom of the Anglo-Saxons'. This is a story of betrayal and of vengeance, of turncoat oath-breakers and loyal commanders, of battles fought and won against the odds. But above all, this is

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the story of how England came into being. Warfare in Alfred's England changed from attritional set-piece battles to a grander strategic concern. This is explored, demonstrating how defense-in-depth fortification networks were built across the resurgent kingdom in the wake of Alfred's victory at Edington in 878. The arrival of new Danish armies into England in the 890s would lead to campaigns quite unlike those of the Great Heathen Army of the previous generation. This is a human, as well as a military story: how a king demonstrated his right to rule was important. Alfred sought to

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secure the succession on his son Edward, who led his own forces as a young man in the 890s. But not everybody was happy in Alfred's England. Despite the ever-present threat from the Danes, the greatest challenge facing Alfred arose from his own kin, centred deep in the heart of ancient Wessex. Alfred knew very well that his was not the only branch of the family who claimed a right to rule. This biography of Alfred the Great, king of the West Saxons (871-899), combines a sensitive reading of the primary sources with a careful evaluation of the most recent scholarly research on the history and

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archaeology of ninth-century England. Alfred emerges from the pages of this biography as a great warlord, an effective and inventive ruler, and a passionate scholar whose piety and intellectual curiosity led him to sponsor a cultural and spiritual renaissance.

Alfred's victories on the battlefield and his sweeping administrative innovations not only preserved his native Wessex from viking conquest, but began the process of political consolidation that would culminate in the creation of the kingdom of England. Alfred the Great: War, Kingship and Culture in Anglo-Saxon England strips away the varnish of

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later interpretations to recover the historical Alfred pragmatic, generous, brutal, pious, scholarly within the context of his own age.

The Life of Alfred the Great

King Alfred's Anglo-Saxon Version of Boethius
De Consolatione Philosophiae

The History of King Alfred the Great,
Compiled by a Classical Scholar, Etc

Asser's Life of King Alfred, written in 893, is a revealing account of one of the greatest of medieval kings.

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Composed by a monk of St David's in Wales who became Bishop of Sherborne in Alfred's service and worked with him in his efforts to revive religion and learning in his kingdom, this life is among the earliest surviving royal biographies. It is an admiring account of King Alfred's life, written in absorbing detail - chronicling his battles against Viking invaders and his struggle to increase the strength and knowledge of his people, and to unite

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his people at a time of conflict,
uncertainty and war.

Traces the life and accomplishments of
the ninth-century British king
The fascinating story of one of
England's most famous monarchs, Alfred
the Great, from his birth to the
discovery of a piece of his pelvis in a
cardboard box in a museum in Winchester
Burnt Cakes and Other Legends
With Preliminary Essays, Illustrative
of the History, Arts, and Manners, of

the Ninth Century

The Wars of King Alfred 865–899

The History of King Alfred the Great

In an era darkened by the terror of Viking invasions, England's first and greatest king was a beacon of light.

"This is the story of England's birth. A great story, beautifully told." (Bernard Cornwell, author of The Pale Horseman) Alfred was England's first king, and his rule spanned troubled times. As his shores sat under constant threat from Viking marauders, his life was similarly imperiled by conspiracies in his own court. He was an extraordinary character? a soldier, scholar, and statesman

like no other in English history?and out of adversity he forged a new kind of nation. Justin Pollard's enthralling account strips back centuries of myth to reveal the individual behind the legend. He offers a radical new interpretation of what inspired Alfred to create England and how it has colored the nation's history to the present day. Justin Pollard, a Cambridge-educated archaeologist, is a documentary filmmaker and the author of Seven Ages of Britain.

In 893, Asser wrote this book, a biography of Alfred the Great entitled *The Life of King Alfred*; in the original Latin, the title is *Vita Ælfredi Regis Angul Saxonum*. The date is known from Asser's mention of the king's age in the

text. The work, which is less than twenty thousand words long, is one of the most important sources of information on Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons from 871 to c. 886 and King of the Anglo-Saxons from c. 886 until his death in 899. He is well-known for overseeing the conversion of Viking leader Guthrum to Christianity, and defending his kingdom against the Viking attempt at conquest, leading him to become the dominant ruler in England.

Very few King's earn the appellation 'Great'. Alfred is the only English King honoured with this name and is credited with various successes (the foundation of a navy, English education system and religious revival). His memory looms

large in the English Imagination. The medieval 'Life' of King Alfred of Wessex purports to be written by Asser, a monk in the King's service. This account of one of England's best loved and most famous kings has been accepted as offering evidence on most aspects of life in early medieval England and beyond. It was used in Victorian times to create a 'Cult' of Alfred. Alfred Smyth offers a carefully annotated translation of the 'Life' together with a long commentary. He argues that the 'Life' is a forgery which has profound implications not only for our understanding of the early English and medieval past but also for the nature of biography and history. This close scholarly rendering of the text allows the reader access to

the intricacies of medieval history.

King Alfred the Great and Our Common Law

The White Horse King

The Medieval Life of King Alfred the Great

Alfred the Great

Follow the life and rule of Alfred the Great, King of Wessex circa 871 to 899, and one of best and most famous kings in the history of England. Jacob Abbot's account of the king separates fact from fiction, illuminating readers about the life of this pioneering ruler, who promoted literacy and education, restructured the tax system, and led his kingdom to victory against invading forces. Before

he was king, Alfred fought in battle against the invading Danes. When his older brother, and current king, was killed during battle, the throne went to Alfred. Coronated at the young age of twenty-one, Alfred the Great inherited the Anglo-Saxon throne in a time of ongoing war. By the time he assumed the throne, the Danes had been actively invading and overthrowing settlements for five years, though their attacks had started long before that. Maintaining his reputation as an intelligent and merciful man, and using his knowledge as a military veteran, Alfred the Great led his kingdom to victory over the Danes, ending the Viking's invasion. After the war, King

Alfred continued to lead in a virtuous manor, earning the respect and praise of his subjects. King Alfred was a man of strong faith and truly loved his people. He pioneered many social policies, including promoting literacy and education, restructuring the taxation system, and strengthening foreign relations. Though he was among the best rulers in the history of England, much of the information scholars previously held about Alfred the Great was riddled with legends and myths, making it difficult to understand the truth about the great king. Alfred the Great by Jacob Abbott is considered to be a culturally significant

and detailed account of the life of Alfred the Great, and was one of the first biographies published about the man that was widely accepted by scholars to be wholly accurate. As an experienced writer for children, Jacob Abbott's work is accessible and exciting. Now reprinted in an easy to read and modern font, paired with an eye-catching cover design, this edition of Jacob Abbott's Alfred the Great is an approachable biography, ready to entertain and educate readers of various demographics on a legendary leader.

A history of Britain in the violent and unruly era between the first Scandinavian raids in 789 and the

final expulsion of the Vikings from York in 954. In 865, a great Viking army landed in East Anglia, precipitating a series of wars that would last until the middle of the following century. It was in this time of crisis that the modern kingdoms of Britain were born. In their responses to the Viking threat, these kingdoms forged their identities as hybrid cultures: vibrant and entrepreneurial peoples adapting to instability and opportunity. Traditionally, Alfred the Great is cast as the central player in the story of Viking Age Britain. But Max Adams, while stressing the genius of Alfred as war leader, law-giver, and forger of the English nation, has a more

nuanced narrative approach to this conventional version of history. The Britain encountered by the Scandinavians of the ninth and tenth centuries was one of regional diversity and self-conscious cultural identities, depicted in glorious narrative fashion in The Viking Wars.

Illuminating study of the political thought of ninth-century West Saxon king, Alfred the Great.

History of King Alfred of England

With Preliminary Essays, Illustrative of the History, Arts, and Manners, of the Ninth Century, Volume 1 - Pr

King Alfred the Great

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An English translation of King Alfred's Anglo-Saxon version of the historian Orosius; with two facsimiles of MSS., by Dr. Bosworth. King Alfred's version of Venerable Bede's Ecclesiastical history of the English nation; literally translated from the original Anglo-Saxon, by E. Thomson. King Alfred's handbook, by Dr. Pauli. An essay on the geography of King Alfred the Great, taken from his Anglo-Saxon version of Orosius; containing Alfred's description of Europe in the ninth century, and his account of the voyages of Ohthere and Wulfstan into the White and Baltic Seas, by R. T. Hampson. Anglo-Saxon version of Gregory's pastoral care, by H. W. Norman.

A modern English version of King Alfred's blossom-gatherings from Saint Augustine, by E. Thomson. The laws of King Alfred the Great, by Dr. Giles. King Alfred's preface to the Anglo-Saxon version of Gregory's dialogues, by S. Fox

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(King of England) John Allen Giles Bosworth & Harrison, 1858 History; Europe; Great Britain; Anglo-Saxons; History / Europe / Great Britain; History / Medieval

Horspool sees Alfred as inextricably linked to the legends and stories that surround him, and rather than attempting to separate the myth from the reality, he explores how both came together to provide a historical figure that was all things to all men.

This book is a comprehensive study of political thought at the court of King Alfred the Great (871-99). It explains the extraordinary burst of royal learned activity focused on inventive translations

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from Latin into Old English attributed to Alfred's own authorship. A full exploration of context establishes these texts as part of a single discourse which placed Alfred himself at the heart of all rightful power and authority. A major theme is the relevance of Frankish and other European experiences, as sources of expertise and shared concerns, and for important contrasts with Alfredian thought and behaviour. Part I assesses Alfred's rule against West Saxon structures, showing the centrality of the royal household in the operation of power. Part II offers an intimate analysis of the royal texts, developing far-reaching implications for Alfredian kingship, communication and court culture. Comparative in

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approach, the book places Alfred's reign at the forefront of wider European trends in aristocratic life.

History of King Alfred the Great of England

In Search of Alfred the Great

King Alfred

The Viking Wars: War and Peace in King Alfred's Britain: 789-955

King Alfred the Great Oxford University Press, USA

From the author of *The Gateway to the Middle Ages*, “ a fascinating portrait of an enlightened monarch against a background of darkness and ignorance ” (Kirkus Reviews). Filled with drama

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and action, here is the story of the ninth-century life and times of Alfred—warrior, conqueror, lawmaker, scholar, and the only king whom England has ever called “ The Great. ” Based on up-to-date information on ninth-century history, geography, philosophy, literature, and social life, it vividly presents exciting views of Alfred in every stage of his long career and leaves the reader with a sharply etched picture of the world of the Middle Ages

The unlikely king who saved England. Down swept the Vikings from the frigid North. Across the English coastlands and countryside they raided, torched,

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murdered, and destroyed all in their path. Farmers, monks, and soldiers all fell bloody under the Viking sword, hammer, and axe. Then, when the hour was most desperate, came an unlikely hero. King Alfred rallied the battered and bedraggled kingdoms of Britain and after decades of plotting, praying, and persisting, finally triumphed over the invaders. Alfred's victory reverberates to this day: He sparked a literary renaissance, restructured Britain's roadways, revised the legal codes, and revived Christian learning and worship. It was Alfred's accomplishments that laid the groundwork for

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Britian's later glories and triumphs in literature, liturgy, and liberty. "Ben Merkle tells the sort of mythic adventure story that stirs the imagination and races the heart?and all the more so knowing that it is altogether true!" ?George Grant, author of The Last Crusader and The Blood of the Moon

The Whole Works of King Alfred the Great
Asser's Life of King Alfred
The Political Thought of King Alfred the Great
War, Kingship and Culture in Anglo-Saxon England

Alfred's life as monarch was to be a struggle against the great Danish forces that sought the

permanent foreign occupation of half of England. His greatness stemmed from his success as a general, and his ability to gain knowledge from the experience of others. The Ballad of the White Horse is a poem by G. K. Chesterton about the idealized exploits of the Saxon King Alfred the Great. Written in ballad form, the work is usually considered one of the last great traditional epic poems ever written in the English language. The poem narrates how Alfred was able to defeat the invading Danes at the Battle of Ethandun under the auspices of God working through the agency of the Virgin Mary. In addition to being

a narration of Alfred's military and political accomplishments, it is also considered a Catholic allegory. Chesterton incorporates a significant amount of philosophy into the basic structure of the story. Aeterna Press

The famous German Church Historian Rev. Professor Dr.J.H. Kurtz called King Alfred the greatest and noblest of all the monarchs England has ever had. King Alfred applied all the energy of his mind to the difficult problems of government; to the emancipation of his Christian country by driving out the Pagan Danish invaders and robbers; and then to improving the internal condition of the land.

Alfred is perhaps best of all remembered for his famous Law Code. King Alfred's Book of Laws or Dooms came forth from the laws of Kent, Mercia and Wessex. All these attempted to blend the Mosaic Code with the Christian principles of Celto-Brythonic Law and old Germanic customs...the laws of Alfred, continually amplified by his successors, grew into that body of Customary Law which was administered as the 'Common Law' by the Shire and the Hundred Courts.

**The King, The Grave, The Legend
Being the Ford Lectures for 1901
War, Kingship, and Culture in Anglo-Saxon**

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England
The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle