

The Celtic areas of Britain regarded the Saxons as enemies and foreigners on their borders: their name became Sassenachs to the Scottish and Saesneg to the Welsh. However, the monk Gildas, writing in the mid-6th century, talks about a British Christian leader called Ambrosius who rallied (grouped or assembled) the Romano-British against the invaders and won twelve battles. The Anglo-Saxon period was a time of war, of the breaking up of Roman Britannia into several separate kingdoms, of religious conversion, and, after the 790s, of continual battles against new invaders: the Vikings. When the Roman legions left Britain, the Germanic-speaking Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Frisians began to arrive – at first in small invading parties, but soon in increasing numbers.

**Introduction** The Anglo-Saxon period in Britain spans approximately six centuries from 410–1066AD. By 850 AD the seven kingdoms had been consolidated into three large Anglo-Saxon kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, and Wessex.

**Anglo-Saxon Invasion Historical Facts** Anglo-Saxon mercenaries had for many years fought in the Roman army in Britain, so they were not total strangers to the island. Initially, they met little firm resistance from the relatively defenseless inhabitants of Britannia. The various Anglo-Saxon groups settled in different areas of the country. This large kingdom stretched over the Midlands.

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