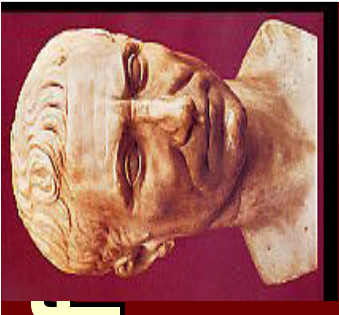




Roman Conquest of Britain



Why would the mighty Roman Empire conquer a remote island at the “at the edge of the world?”

- ❖ Britain was remote but familiar to Greek & Roman traders.
- ❖ It was known for mild winters, abundant food, and in some cases obliging native Celtic allies.
- ❖ Julius Caesar, in the middle of a 3 way power struggle needed a quick & easy victory to secure his glory. He assumed Celtic barbarians’ would submit to Roman legions.



Stonehenge England. Photo by Kelly Rybacki:
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Roman Conquest of Britain

- ❖ 55-54BC Julius Caesar unsuccessfully invaded Britain twice. Celtic leaders used hit-and-run tactics to frustrate the Roman legions.
- ❖ In the decades after various Celtic tribes and kings paid homage to Rome and trade increased.
- ❖ 90 Years later in 43AD, the Romans, led by the Emperor Claudius launched a classical world version of 'shock & awe' against the island. 40,000 troops!
- ❖ Many Celtic kings and tribal leaders such surrendered and became puppet-kings.
- ❖ Other Celtic kingdoms and tribes, especially the Picts & Caledonii in the north resisted.

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- ❖ 60AD the Iceni, who cooperated with the Romans were treated harshly & declared a slave province.
- ❖ The Queen of the Iceni, Boudicca tried to negotiate but was publicly flogged & her daughters were publicly brutalized.
- ❖ The enraged Iceni, led by Boudicca rebelled & assembled a large army, of 300,000 & sacked Colchester & Londinium.
- ❖ Roman legions finally defeat Boudicca's army and she took her own life rather than fall to the Romans. "They make a desert and they call it peace."
- ❖ Roman's did learn to run Britannia better.
- ❖ 122AD Hadrian's Wall is begun to keep out the Picts and Caledonii.
- ❖ By the 200s most Celtic tribes had begun to 'Latinize.' Roman & Celtic culture merged, and created a hybridized Romano-British culture in the cities.



Statue of Boudicca & Daughters at Westminster

Roman Conquest of Britain



Roman baths-Bath
England. Photo by
Kelly Rybacki:
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Roman Conquest of Britain



Roman baths-Bath England. Photo by Kelly Rybacki: Cloverleaf class of 2007

Roman Conquest of Britain

- ❖ By the 300s trade flourished, roads were built, and cities grew.
- ❖ The Roman Empire was crumbling, but because of the hybridization of the Roman-British, the concept of 'Rome' in Britannia was stronger than it was in Europe.
- ❖ 367AD a 3-way coordinated onslaught by Anglo-Saxons from across the North Sea, Picts from the North, and the Gaelic Dal Riata Scoti from Ireland invaded Roman Britain.
- ❖ 410AD 'the Flight of the Eagles' Last Roman legions evacuate Britain to defend the empire.



Roman Conquest of Britain

- ❖ Vortigern (name or title?) invited Saxon mercenaries and their 'wave horses' to fight other Saxons and Picts & promised to give them land. This failed. Quote pg. 44.
- ❖ The Angles & Saxons continued to invade & settle Britain. Celtic and Romano-British resistance grew.
- ❖ The Age of Arthur? 480-520AD?