

The Origins of Scotland

“Alba go Bragh”



- ❖ The nation that we today call Scotland has a complex past.
- ❖ Scotland is one of the oldest nations on Earth.



Picts

- The Picts were never one group of people.
- Divided into several kingdoms: Cirech, Fotla, Fortriu, Fiobh, Ce, Moray, Cat.
- Very little is known of Pictish culture. They were a Celtic people, perhaps related to the Britons (Welsh). May have been related to the Gaels of Ireland.
- They spoke a Brythonic branch of Celtic languages which later divided into P-Celt.
- There are two branches of Celtic languages P-Celt: (Brythonic based-Welsh, Cornish, Breton), and Q-Celt: (Erse-'Irish Gaelic', and Scottish Gaelic.

Pictish standing stones represent their art & culture.

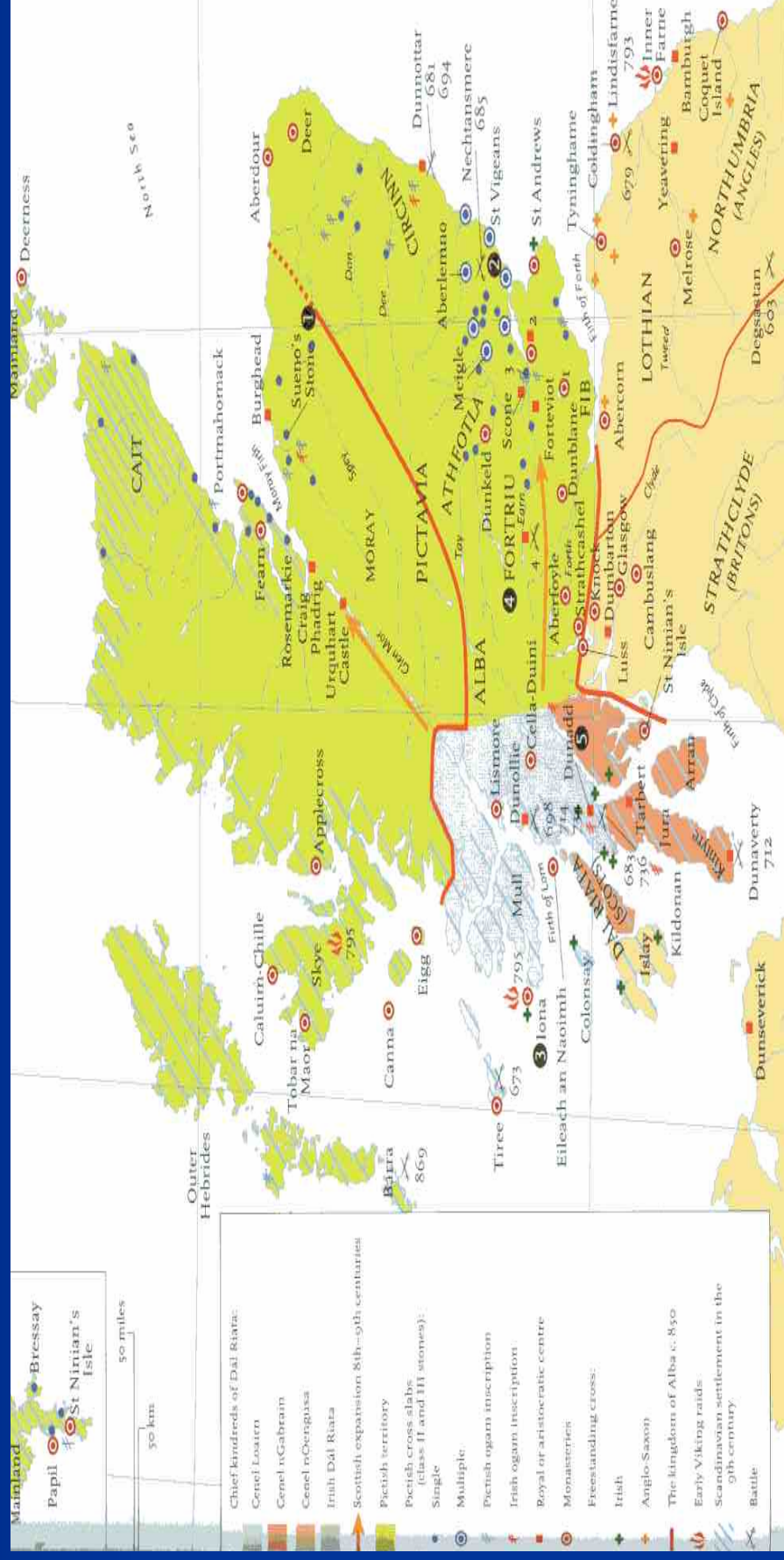


Standing stone at Dunkeld



Pictish Kingdoms

- By the time of the Roman withdrawal two Pictish kingdoms emerged. In the north the Caledonii with their capital at Inverness, & the Fortrenn with their capital at Forteviot



Dal Riata, the Scottish Invasion

- Due to land pressure & disputes with the O'Neil Kings of northern Eire, 'Scotti' ships sailed to Kintyre, Argyll, around 450 A.D.
- History & myth say in 501 A.D. King Fergus MacErc conquered Argyll, while his brothers took Lorne & Islay.
- The Dal Riataian Scots were 'Irish', spoke Gaelic, and operated in a Gaelic-Celtic *ethos*.
- Until the 637 the Irish & British halves of Dal Riata were ruled by the same king/chiefs. After, they split.
- The Gaelic chiefs/kings of Argyll-Lorne both fought with, and intermarried with the Picts.

Birth of Alba

- By the 700s the Gaels & Picts took turns over running one another. At first the Picts were militarily superior, but the Gaelic language and Christianity won the cultural battle
- Viking invasions forced an uneasy truce.

Birth of Alba

- 839 A.D. Picts badly defeated by Vikings. The Pictish chiefs were wiped out including the King of Picts and Scots Uven Mac Angus II
- 841 A.D. Cináed mac Ailpín, a.k.a Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Dalriada defeated what was left of the Pictavian forces. Earned the nick name 'raven feeder.'
- 843 A.D. Cináed mac Ailpín, claims title 'King of Dal Riata, Argyll, & Pictavia. Under pressure from Norsemen moves capital to Pictish Forteviot.
- MacAlpin's grandson, Donald II was the first to use the title, 'Ardh Ri Alba'.
- The Picts disappear from history?
- Alba retains a Gaelic culture, but in the west and Isles a hybrid Gaelic-Norseman culture emerges

Birth of Alba

*Naoi m-bliadhna Cusaintín chain,
a naoi Aongusa ar Albain,
cethre bliadhna Aodha áin,
is a trí déug Eoghanáin.*

Tríocho bliadhain Cinead chruaidh,

The nine years of Causantín the fair;

The nine of Aongus over Alba;

The four years of Aodh the noble;

And the thirteen of Eoghanán.

The thirty years of Cinead the hardy,



Alba to Scotland

- Alba had numerous peoples, Irish-Gaels, Norse, & Angles, but it remained a Gaelic-Norse land until the 1100s.
- 1124 A.D. David I, invited Norman knights into southern Scotland to settle and support his court.
- By the 1200s Lowland Scotland was feudal and Anglo-Norman in character, while the northern Highlands and Isles remained Irish-Gaelic and Norse. Power shifted to the feudal Lowlands.