

# An Island Race? The Origins of Britain's Imperial Ambition



FIG. 1.

# Outline

- Why did Britain become an imperial power
- The four parts of Britain
- Expansion of medieval Britain
- Creation of an English Empire in Britain

# Introduction: Why did Britain become an imperial power?

- An “island race.”
- The sea and seafaring
- Sense of separateness from Europe
- Outward looking

# The Four Parts of Britain



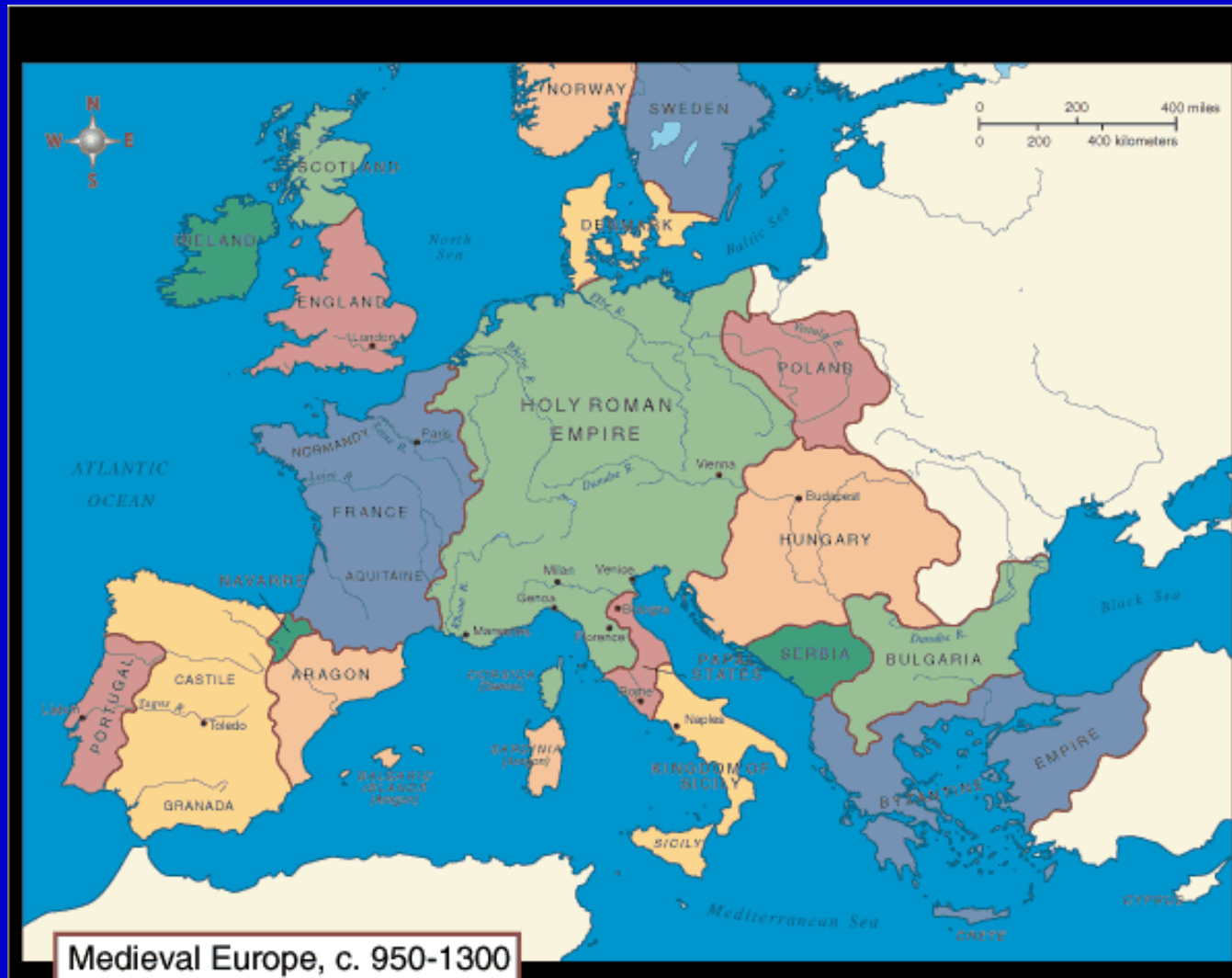
# Medieval Britain



# The Four Parts of Britain

- Only a UNITED KINGDOM since 1707
- The relationship between the 4 parts
- England the dynamic part since 1066. Why?
  - First to have a strong state
  - Closer to Europe

# Britain and Medieval Europe



# Expansion of Medieval England

- Internal colonialism
  - “Pacification” of Wales in 13<sup>th</sup>. Century
  - Angevin Empire in France



# Expansion of Medieval England

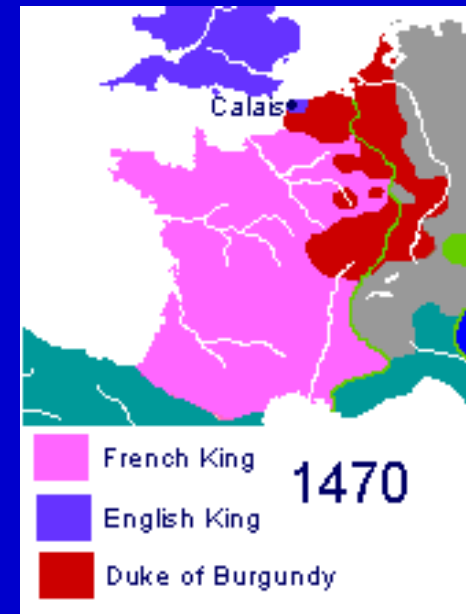
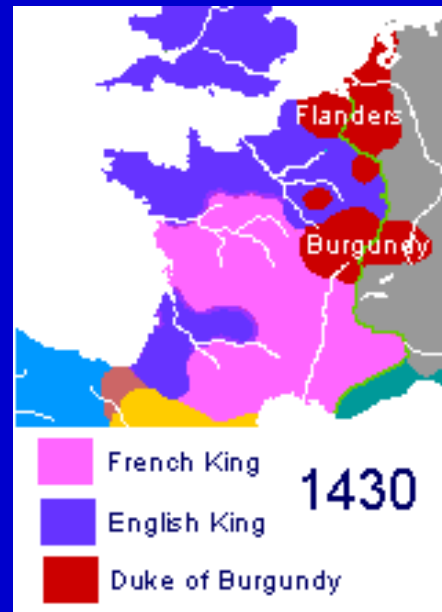
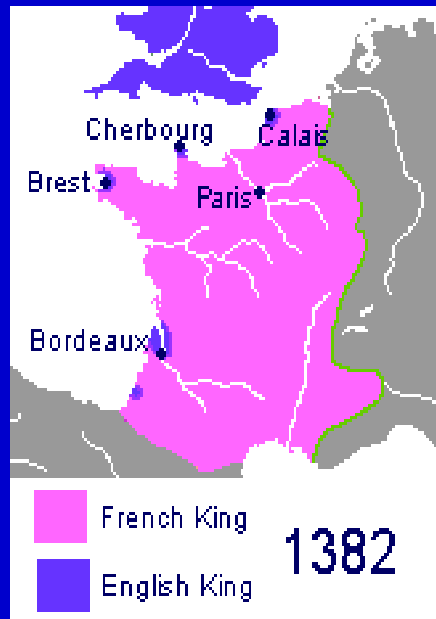
English empire  
In France at its  
height



# Expansion of Medieval England

- Its decline
  - Resistance to English rule in Scotland
  - The weakening of the English state
  - The 100 Years War in France 1340-1453

# Hundred Years War



# Creation of An English Empire

- The Tudor Monarchy  
1485-1603
- Henry VIII the best  
known, creates a  
powerful central state



# Creation of An English Empire

Assertion of power over  
borderlands

Aggression towards Scotland

Act of Union 1536 with  
Wales



# Conclusion

- The deep tendencies within British history towards expansion
- By 1600 England the dominant part, subordinated Wales and Scotland
- Where did this leave Ireland?

