

Langtoft's Chronicle of England and Edward's Colonial Agenda



Edward I
First monarch of all
Britain since Arthur

In the noble londe of France was some tyme a grette
 kynge and a myghty that was named Dioclespand
 And he was the mooste worthiest kynge that levinge
 on Erthe as the story saythe. And this becom to
 procede he hade by wyf his wyf pppm daughters
 the which were gyven in to mariage to pppm
 knynges of diverse countres And all the knyngs were vnder
 Dioclespand and obedient unto hym. And after it
 be fell so that thes wyfes weren so proude and
 pteene toward thes husbondes by othre assent com-
 pleynded upon hem to Dioclespand the grette kynge
 so thes filders were grette unadvised of thes goynance
 And so he gave his daughters a grette rebuke in the
 presence of all thes husbondes. And so the knyng myght
 folowynge for mule talent and thes were that they were
 so fouly blamed of thes filders through grette com-
 plaine of thes husbondes they toke thes consell
 to god and thought to be aduenged. And so the knyng
 myght by othre assent thes knynges husbondes thowp
 And violently they were slayne all. And thes were all
 the pppm false women that were quenes of diverse
 londes. And so the knyng of France And
 put in to a shippe so vnten helpe of any man. And
 toke hem vitale for half a yere or more And he toke the
 to malorde and Appolyne to bepe. And so thes were in
 the see londe and pppm a daye. And at the last thes
 were drownd in to the londe that thes was all differte
 and wilderness and full of wilde bestes. And then
 they come a londe wher they fonde no creature in
 the londe. And the eldest syster of so well by person



OVERVIEW

National chronicles
 documented important events
 throughout Edward's reign and
 more importantly supported his
 political agenda.

The Langtoft's Chronicle enhanced Edward's reputation,
 othered his opponents and functioned as propaganda for
 Edward

In the noble londe of Ennyge was some tyme a gte
 kynge and a myghty that was named Dioclespand
 And he was the moste worthy kynge that leuynge
 on Erthe as the story sayth. And this becom to
 proude he had by syns myghty pppm daughters
 the which were geyuen in to mariage to pppm
 knynges of synne countries And all the knyngs were ind
 Dioclespand and obedient unto hym. And after it
 be fell so that thes myghtes wepen so proude and
 iteene toward thes husbondes by one assent com
 pleynded upon hem to Dioclespand the gte kynge
 so thes fildar were grete a medid of thes goindance
 And so he gade his daughters a gte felth in d
 us of all her husbondes. And so the nepte myght
 folowynge for mule talent and the gre that they were
 so foule blamed of thes fildar throug grete com
 playnte of thes husbondes they toke thes consell
 to god and thonght to be aduenged. And so the nepte
 myght by one assent thes cut her husbondes throug
 And violensely they were slayne all. And thes were all
 the pppm false women that were quenes of synne
 londes. And so oute of all the londe of Ennyge And
 put in to a shipe so outen helpe of any man. And
 toke hem oute for gals a yere or more And be toke he
 to myltonde and Appolyne to bepe. And so thes were in
 the see longe and pppm a daye. And at the last thes
 were dreynd in to the londe that the was all differre
 and wilder ness and full of wilde bestes. And then
 they come a lunde wher they fonde no creature in
 the lunde. And the eldest sister of so well by pppm



Chronicle of England

By

Peter of Langtoft

Focus 1292 to 1307

English medieval colonialism

Scottish resistance

Although Langtoft's *Chronicle of England* covers the span of English from the founding to the death of Edward I, the focus is 1292 to 1307.

The Chronicle was written in Anglo-Norman French

Langtoft was an eyewitness to the events he documented

His *Chronicle* is more than a chronological listing of events. It analyzes events, provides context and includes the author's opinions.

The *Chronicle* supports Edward's colonial agenda by

- othering his opponents
- Acting as a vehicle for propaganda

Edward's primary opponents were the Scots because they resisted his claim as overlord of Scotland after Edward's conquest

The French were secondary opponents with their seizure of Gascony, the last remnant of the Angevin Empire.

A second chronicle is Robert of Brunne's *Story of England* completed in 1338

It is an adaptation of Langtoft's Chronicle of England but translated into Middle English for an English-speaking audience

As an adaptation it contains additional material

OTHERING

Development of an us vs. them
dichotomy based on Ethnicity and
geography

Self and other is arbitrarily defined

England deliberately constructed the Scots as other, defining
them as felons, rascals, oath breakers and murders

1. Reduced respect for Scottish soldiers
2. Reduced the sensitivity of English soldiers in battle
3. Instilled fear in the English populace reducing their
resistance to increased taxes to support Edward's wars

PROPAGANDA

the systematic dissemination of information especially in a biased or misleading way, in order to promote a political cause or point of view

Langtoft's Chronicle promotes

- Edward as always victorious in battle with the nickname Hammer of the Scots
- Edward's power as he captured Scottish cultural icons
- The French are duplicitous violating treaties, property and people
- Edward is the new Arthur, the monarch of all the Island of Britain

METHODOLOGY

Examine Langtoft's *Chronicle of England* to answer these questions

1. Is this *Chronicle* used to other the Scots?
2. Is this *Chronicle* a vehicle for Edward's propaganda?
3. What are Edward's colonial ambitions?
4. Why purpose did the othering and propaganda serve?
5. Was Langtoft biased?
6. How does Robert Mannyng discuss the same issues in his adaptation?
7. What do other scholars say about Langtoft's *Chronicle*
8. Did the *Chronicle* serve as a medium for propaganda and othering Edward's foes?

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