

Darrel Roche – The Normans - Conquest of England and Battle of Hastings AD1066

Normans were originally Vikings who had conquered and intermarried with the French in north-western France to create the state of Normandy. These metal-clad marauders became highly proficient mercenaries who, under the command of Robert Guiscard and his brother Roger, were even able to defeat the Pope's forces in southern Italy and the Saracens' forces on the island of Sicily, to create more Norman strongholds.

England had suffered incursions by the Romans from Italy, the Picts and Scots from the north, the Angles and Saxons from Germany, and the Danes from Scandinavia. But the Saxon King Harold refused to give ground to William the Conqueror and his invading Normans from Normandy. The Battle of Hastings between the Normans and the English occurred on 14th October 1066 with the ultimate outcome affecting English history forever.