

† Scotland in the Middle Ages †

By Mary McNab, Valy Christie, Panagiota Windsor

Scotland in the Middle Ages is about the history of Scotland from the Roman departure to the adoption of major aspects of the Renaissance in the early sixteenth century. In the early Middle Ages, during the 5th century, Scotland was separated into four kingdoms: The Picts, the Gaels of Dál Riata, the Britons of Strathclyde, and the Kingdom of Bernicia. In the 9th century, the kingdom of Alba was formed when the Scots and Picts combined under the house of Alpin.

In the 13th and 14th centuries, after being invaded and briefly occupied, Scotland reestablished its independence from England under figures including William Wallace in the late 13th century, and, in the 14th century, Robert Bruce.

In the 15th century, under the Stewart Dynasty, despite a chaotic political history, the crown gained greater political control and regained most of its lost territory to approximately the modern borders of the country.

Papal authority was always accepted by the Church in Scotland, which introduced monasticism and, from the 11th century, embraced monastic reform developing a religious culture that claimed its independence from English control.

Scotland's modern borders grew from its base in the eastern Lowlands. The varied and dramatic land geography provided protection against invasion but limited central control.

The Pictish and Cumbric languages were replaced by Gaelic, Scots, and later Norse, with Gaelic becoming the major cultural language. Christianity brought Latin. From the twelfth century, educational opportunities widened. The Education Act of 1496 led to the growth of lay education.

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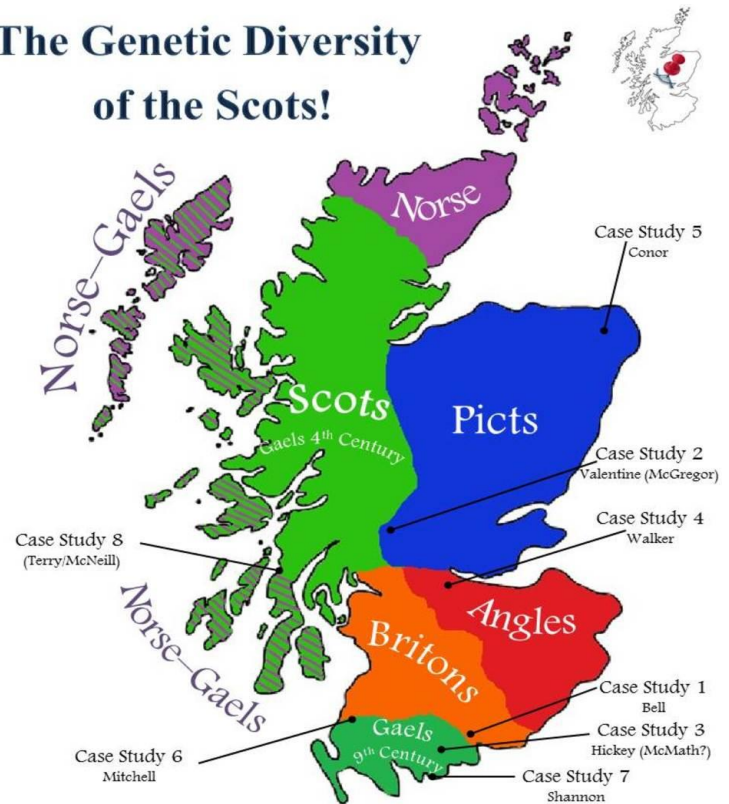
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