

# **Lecture 2**

# **Britain's prehistory**



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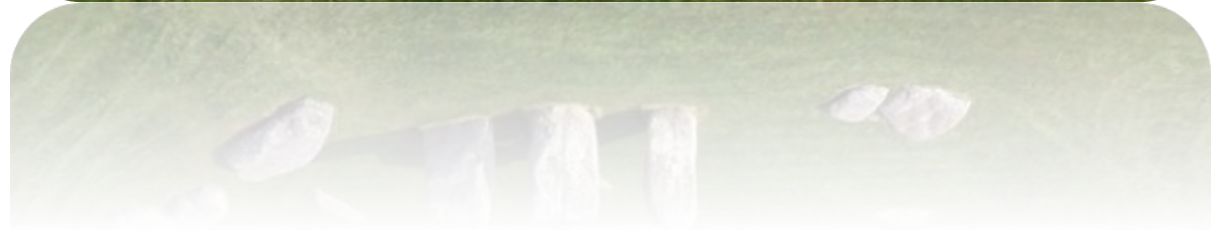
# Plan

- The Celts
- The Romans
- The Anglo-Saxons



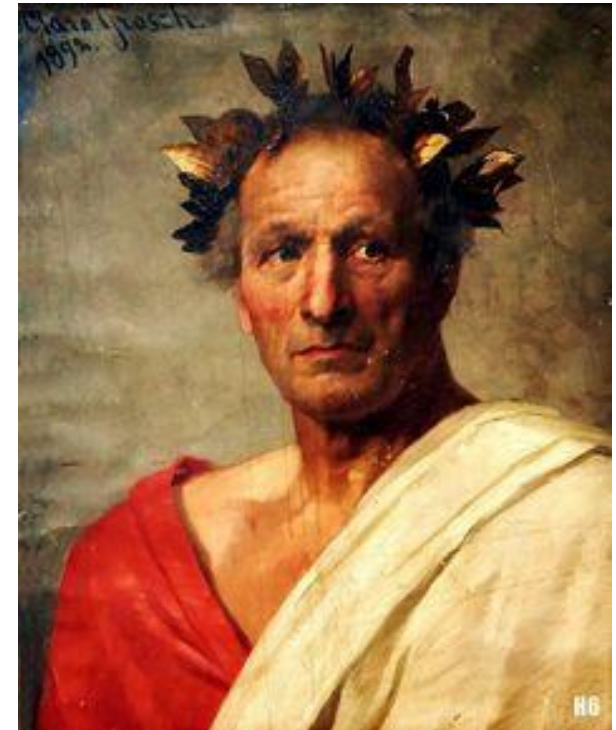
# Mysterious Stonehenge

- 3000 B.C. - the Iberians
- 1900 - 1600 B.C.
- 8,5 meters high
- 7 tons
- Kings were buried here
- It was used for sun worship
- A Temple or a Court of Justice



# Early Britain. The Celtic tribes

- 6-3 century B.C. - the Iberians, the Picts, the Scots and the Britons
- Julius Caesar (Commentaries on the Gallic War)
- Spears, swords, daggers, axes
- War-chariots



# The primitive communal system

- The Iberians - stone tools
- The Celts - metal tools, bronze, copper, iron
- No private property, no prisons, no courts
- From primitive communal society - to class society
- The elders, military leaders - tribal nobility



# The Roman conquest of Britain

- Class of slaves and the class of slave-owners
- In 55 B.C. a Roman army invaded Britain, but had to retreat
- In 54 B.C. Caesar again came to Britain
- In 43 A.D. a Roman army invaded Britain and conquered the South-East
- The Picts and the Scots burned their villages, drove off their cattle and sheep
- “Hadrian’s Wall”



# Roman influence in Britain

- Towns, splendid villas, public baths
- York, Gloucester, Lincoln, London
- Bath - hot springs
  
- Slavery
- Had to build roads, bridges, walls



# The Fall of the Roman Empire

- 3-4 centuries - the Roman Empire weakened
- No new methods of land cultivation, no new technical inventions
- 4 century - Germanic tribes invaded the Western Roman Empire
- The Roman legions were recalled from Britain
- The end of slave-owning system





# Traces of the Roman Rule in Britain

- Wells, roads, Watling Street, walls, baths, bridges
- The fragments of the old London wall
- Pottery, glass, tiles, statues, armour, coins
  
- street - strata
- Port - portus
- Wall - vallum
  
- Castra - camps (Chester, Winchester, Manchester, Leicester, Gloucester, Doncaster)



# The Anglo-Saxon Conquest of Britain

- In the 5<sup>th</sup> century - the Jutes, the Saxons and the Angles
- In 449 they landed in Kent and the conquest began
- 150 years - to conquer the country
- 7<sup>th</sup> century - they conquered the greater part of the country
- the Jutes - Kent
- The Saxons - Sussex, Wessex, Essex
- The Angles - Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia



**Thank you  
for your attention!**

