

The Timeline of British History

Sixteen turning points, four guides, and roughly a thousand years — the full arc of the story DDH has been excavating, laid out in one place.

16

Episodes & articles mapped to their moment in history

4

Professors, each guiding a different pathway through the past

1066–1783

From the Norman Conquest to the American Revolution



- Henry Ashford — Royal & Political History
- Steven Carmichael — Military History
- Amelia Harcourt — Social & Cultural History
- Marcus Langston — Global & Comparative History

Before England was one kingdom in any settled sense, it was villages, invasions, plagues and dynastic wars — each one resetting who held power and how ordinary people lived.

**Early
medieval
VILLAGE LIFE**

Exploring the Depths of Medieval Village Life

Long before the castles and courts, most people's entire world was a single village. Amelia opens the story of Britain not with a king, but with the households, work and customs that actually held medieval society together.

● Amelia Harcourt · Social & Cultural History

**1066
HASTINGS**

The Battle of Hastings: A Pivotal Moment in English History

One battle, one autumn day, and the entire direction of English history changes hands. Steven walks through how a fractured, locally-governed England became a single Norman kingdom almost overnight.

● Steven Carmichael · Military History

**1337–1453
HUNDRED
YEARS' WAR**

The Hundred Years' War: A Journey Beyond Conflict

Over a century of on-and-off war between England and France did more than redraw borders — it reshaped how medieval society itself worked. Steven looks past the battles to what actually changed.

● Steven Carmichael · Military History

**c.1347
BLACK DEATH**

The Lasting Impact of the Black Death: Transformations Across Society

A pandemic that killed a huge share of the population also broke open the rigid social order that came before it. Amelia traces how catastrophe on this scale quietly rewired class, work and daily life.

● Amelia Harcourt · Social & Cultural History

**1455–1487
WARS OF THE
ROSES**

Understanding the War of the Roses: A Pivotal Chapter in English History

Lancaster against York wasn't just a family feud fought with armies — it was a fight for the soul of English government. Steven explains why its aftershocks reached far beyond the battlefield.

● Steven Carmichael · Military History

1485–1603TUDOR
SOCIETY**Tudor Households: Exploring Early Modern Society**

Behind the grandeur of the Tudor court sat a much more ordinary structure: the household. Amelia shows how the home itself — not just the throne — shaped how early modern England actually functioned.

● Amelia Harcourt · Social & Cultural History

1534BREAK WITH
ROME**Henry VIII's and the Break with Rome: Understanding Its Lasting Impact**

A king's marriage problem became a permanent religious and political rupture. Henry (Ashford, not the king) unpacks how one man's decisions redrew the relationship between crown, church and state for centuries.

● Henry Ashford · Royal & Political History

1547–1558SUCCESSION
CRISIS**The Tudor Succession Crisis: Unveiling Its Impact on Modern Monarchy**

Three siblings, one throne, and no settled rule for who should have it. Henry traces how the scramble after Henry VIII's death forced England to confront questions about power — and about women ruling — that outlasted the Tudors themselves.

● Henry Ashford · Royal & Political History

1558–1603ELIZABETHAN
ERA**The Unsung Importance of Elizabeth I's Spy Network**

Elizabeth I's long reign is remembered for its culture and confidence — but it survived on intelligence. Henry goes behind the throne to the network of espionage that quietly kept her in power.

● Henry Ashford · Royal & Political History

Late**1500s**THEATRE &
THE CROWD**Elizabethan Theatre Beyond Shakespeare: The Crowd That Changed England**

Long before Shakespeare's name mattered, it was the audience packed onto Bankside that made theatre a social force. Amelia looks at the crowd, not just the playwright, to explain why it changed England.

● Amelia Harcourt · Social & Cultural History

By the late sixteenth century, England's story stops being containable within its own coastline. A survived invasion, a trading company chartered almost as an afterthought, and a constitutional crisis dressed up as a change of monarch all pushed the same question further outward: who actually gets to hold power, and how far does it reach? These three episodes sit either side of that turn, from the Armada's real lesson in logistics to the settlement that followed the Glorious Revolution a century later.

1588

SPANISH
ARMADA

Spanish Armada 1588, Why the Real Victory Mattered

Storms and bonfires are the version everyone remembers. Steven makes the case that the Armada was really a logistics and invasion story — and that the real victory looked nothing like the legend.

● Steven Carmichael · Military History

**From
1600**

EAST INDIA
COMPANY

The Legacy of the East India Company: Profound Impacts and Contemporary Reflections

Founded as a trading venture, the East India Company grew into something closer to a private empire. Marcus connects its rise to consequences that reached far beyond Britain's own shores — and still echo today.

● Marcus Langston · Global & Comparative History

1688–1689

GLORIOUS
REVOLUTION

The Glorious Revolution and the Fall of James II

Usually filed away as a tidy, bloodless swap of monarchs — Henry argues that's exactly the wrong way to see it. The real crisis was about where royal authority actually came from, and it changed the constitution for good.

● Henry Ashford · Royal & Political History

The final stretch of this timeline is where Britain stops being a story that happens to one island and becomes a story about the world it now touches. A fragile union creates "Great Britain" almost by necessity, a war fought across continents quietly decides who leads the next century, and a colony's argument with its own government becomes a revolution nobody in London saw coming. Each of these episodes is really about the same thing: power outgrowing the borders that first held it.

1702–1707
ACT OF UNION

Queen Anne and the Act of Union: Why Great Britain Was Made Under Pressure

Anne inherited a crown without a clear heir and a kingdom that wasn't yet one country. Henry shows how fragile the union of England and Scotland really was at the moment "Great Britain" was created.

● Henry Ashford · Royal & Political History

1756–1763
SEVEN YEARS' WAR

The Seven Years War: A Global Conflict Unveiled

Often treated as a footnote before the American Revolution, Marcus makes the case this was really the first true world war — fought across continents, and the real hinge on which 18th-century power turned.

● Marcus Langston · Global & Comparative History

1765–1783
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Why the American Revolution Mattered More Than You Think

It starts on a cold Boston street in 1770, not in a courtroom or a congress. This entry in Marcus's pathway follows the revolution back to the ordinary people who were there before it had a name.

● Marcus Langston · Global & Comparative History

THE STORY KEEPS GOING

Get the next chapter before it's public.

This timeline covers everything DDH has published so far — but all four professors are adding new eras and episodes. Stay on this list and we'll let you know the moment a new chapter is added to the archive, and nothing else.

Watch the episodes

No sales pitches, no unrelated offers — just a note when there's genuinely something new to dig into.

■ **Henry Ashford**

Royal & Political History — monarchy, power, succession, parliament.

■ **Amelia Harcourt**

Social & Cultural History — everyday life, belief, community.

■ **Steven Carmichael**

Military History — battles, strategy, campaigns, consequence.

■ **Marcus Langston**

Global & Comparative History — empire, trade, revolution.