

The Anglo–Saxon Misconception

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It has often been asserted in the absence of strong evidence until relatively recent times that the English are overwhelmingly of Anglo–Saxon ancestry, with little if any genetic inheritance from the previous Roman, Celtic, and pre–Celtic or Iberian–Basque–Berber peoples. The Basques, like the Berbers and the ancient Iberians, speak or spoke a non–Indo–European language. The Iberians, before the Celtic, Greek, Roman, and Visigothic invasions, spoke a non–Indo–European language. Even the Irish and Welsh, who have long been assumed to be of overwhelmingly Celtic ancestry, have been discovered to be of largely Basque origin in recent DNA studies, and unlike the Celtic dialects, the Basque language is definitely not an Indo–European language. The Irish have been found to be only about 20% Celtic in their paternal Y chromosome ancestry, and about 1% Celtic in their maternal X chromosome or MtDNA [i.e. Mitochondrial Deoxy ribo nucleic acid] ancestry. For the Welsh, the figures are about 10% Celtic for the Y chromosome and about 1% for the X Chromosome or MtDNA. In addition, the Basque genetic inheritance has found to be more common in Scotland, England, Cornwall, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, and Germany than hitherto expected.

In the Neolithic era, the Berbers of North Africa, who are the distant cousins of the Arabic peoples of the Middle East, migrated into what is now southern Europe from North Africa via the narrow Strait of Gibraltar, and from Spain they spread out into western and northwestern Europe. The Basques have been shown by DNA tests to be closely related to several Berber tribes in North Africa. During the period from around 8,000–4,000 B.C., and also from around 26,000–20,000 B.C., the Sahara and Arabian Desert was similar in vegetation and fauna to the African savannas and light woodlands of today. Around 17,000 B.C., during the height of the last Ice Age, sea levels worldwide were about 130 meters lower than today, because so much of the world's water was locked up in polar ice caps and glaciers, and because of the lower sea levels, a near land bridge used to exist where the Strait of Gibraltar is today, and of course there was a land bridge where the Strait of Dover, the English Channel, the North Sea, and the Irish Sea are found today. Another near land bridge existed where the sea separates Sicily from North Africa, and during the height of the last Ice Age, the Strait of Messina, which now separates Sicily from Italy, was a land bridge at the time. The northern half of the Adriatic Sea also had a land bridge at the height of the last Ice Age. The Aegean Sea, which