

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-46945-6 - Modern Wales: A Concise History, Second Edition  
Gareth Elwyn Jones  
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# MODERN WALES

## A Concise History

### Second edition

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To K, B and M

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## PREFACE

The outstanding feature of work on the history of Wales in recent years has been the extent and quality of the research which has been undertaken. Much of that research has, fortunately, found its way into print in articles, essays, monographs and a few general texts. However, we are not yet in that desirable position in which the author of a new book on Welsh history need apologise for its appearance. It follows that this book is not intended to replace anything; its purpose is to supplement the resources available to all those interested in studying Welsh history.

I have attempted to analyse the main changes which have occurred in Wales over the last five hundred years. Constraints of space meant that there have had to be some sacrifices. Treatment of many topics is less detailed than I would have wished and I have paid scant attention to the history of the Welsh outside Wales. However, I have tried to stress, more than has been usual in Welsh history texts, the economic and social background to political, religious and educational changes.

This structure, and the content on which it rests, would have been impossible were it not for the extensive and excellent research which has borne fruit in theses, journals and books during the last thirty years or so. My own research is limited to specialist aspects of the sixteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. For the rest I am indebted to others. In a work which carries no footnotes it is impossible for me to discharge that debt adequately; all I can do is to thank in general terms the many historians from whose work I have learned so much.

My hope is that those who read the book will be prompted to go to other historians and, beyond them, to some of the printed and manuscript sources on which historical generalisations rest. I hope to encourage an early stage of this process by including a short

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*Preface*

selection from the more easily accessible printed primary sources, though these documents are also intended to amplify the text. There is no conventional bibliography; booklists abound in varying sizes. Again in the hope of stimulating personal investigation into some aspect of the nation's past, there is a very general introduction to some of the resources available and their location.

In writing this book I have received the most generous help from many friends and colleagues. I am much indebted to Peggy George, Trevor Herbert and Prys Morgan. It is highly likely that without David Howell's encouragement and invaluable assistance the book would never have been started, let alone completed. It was my great good fortune that, as a student at University College, Swansea, I was taught Welsh history by three of Wales's finest historians. They have continued to teach me ever since, not least in connection with this book. To say that I owe much to Ieuan Gwynedd Jones, Kenneth O. Morgan and Glanmor Williams is a considerable understatement.

Finally my thanks go to William Davies and the staff of the Cambridge University Press for the consideration and kindness they have shown me in the process of seeing the book into print.

*University College of Swansea*  
*November 1983*

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## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

When this book was reprinted in 1988 I took the opportunity to correct minor errors which had been noted by reviewers and other readers. I am grateful to them all, particularly to Geraint H. Jenkins. For this edition I have added a chapter which takes the story of modern Wales on from 1979 to the present day.

My original 'Note on further study' may now be supplemented by recent publication of important bibliographical material. Philip Henry Jones's *A Bibliography of the History of Wales* (microfiche) is in its third, 1988, edition. Each of the titles published since 1984 in the Clarendon Press/University of Wales Press series on the history of Wales has an excellent bibliography. The titles are: R. R. Davies, *Conquest, Co-existence and Change, Wales 1063–1485* (1986), Glanmor Williams, *Recovery, Reorientation and Reformation, Wales c. 1415–1642* (1987), and Geraint H. Jenkins, *The Foundations of Modern Wales, 1642–1760* (1987). I had already noted Kenneth O. Morgan's volume in this series.

Extensive source material on a variety of topics ranging chronologically from the reign of Edward I to Wales between the two world wars was published in 1988 by the University of Wales Press in a series of six volumes edited by Trevor Herbert and Gareth Elwyn Jones under the series title of *Welsh History and its Sources*.

*University of Wales, Aberystwyth*  
November 1993

GARETH ELWYN JONES

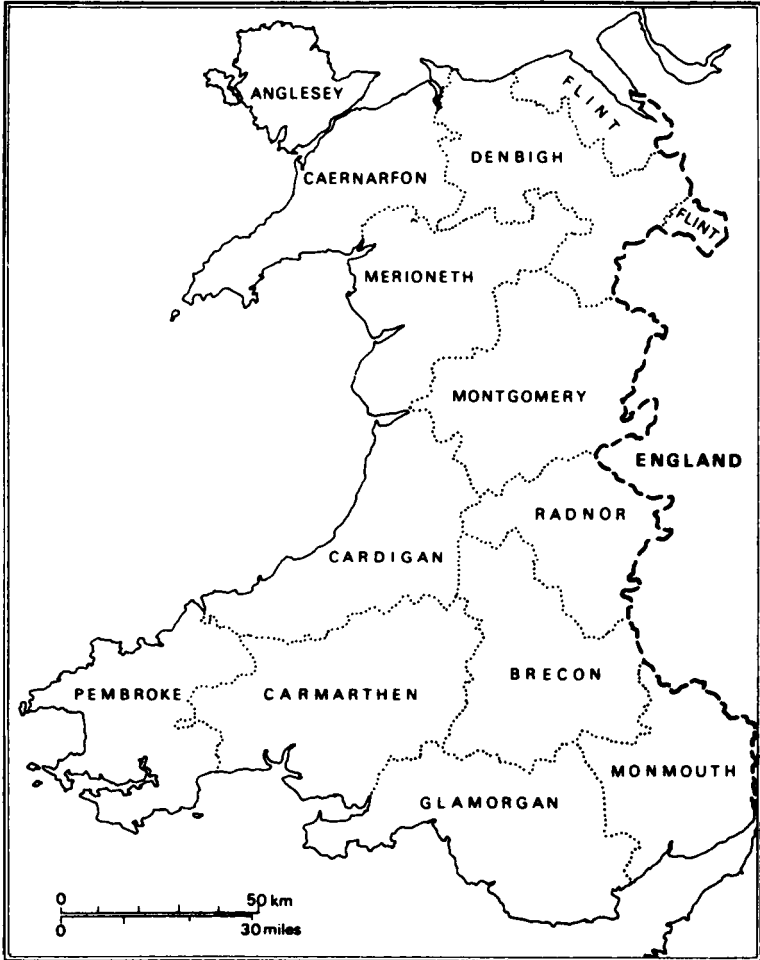


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2. Main places mentioned in the text