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MEDIEVAL WALES

A. D. CARR

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St. Martin's Press

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First published in Great Britain 1995 by
MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

ISBN 978-0-333-54773-1 ISBN 978-1-349-23973-3 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-23973-3

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
04 03 02 01 00 99 98 97 96 95

First published in the United States of America 1995 by
Scholarly and Reference Division,
ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, INC.,
175 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10010

ISBN 978-0-312-12509-7

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Carr, A. D. (Anthony D.), 1938–
Medieval Wales / A. D. Carr.

p. cm. — (British history in perspective)
Includes bibliographical references (p.) and index.

ISBN 978-0-312-12509-7

1. Wales—History—1063–1536. I. Title. II. Series: British
history in perspective (Houndmills, Basingstoke, England).
DA715.C37 1995

942.9'03—dc20

94-38197
CIP

For my mother and in memory of my father

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PREFACE

In this book I have tried to examine the main features of the history of Wales between the death of Gruffydd ap Llywelyn in 1064 on the eve of the coming of the Normans and the execution of the last marcher magnate, Edward Stafford, duke of Buckingham, in 1521, in many ways a more appropriate date than 1536 to mark the end of the middle ages. It is the fruit of a process of reading, of research, of conversations with colleagues and friends, of teaching and of thinking over a number of years, and the bibliography and footnotes reflect more debts than can be enumerated here; its shortcomings are all my own work. I am indebted to my publishing editor, Vanessa Graham, and to Keith Povey, editorial services consultant, for their advice and assistance in guiding the book through the press. Above all, I am grateful to my wife Glenda for her patience and forbearance, especially in reading the entire work, and for so many suggestions which have added to the clarity of the original.

A. D. CARR

GLOSSARY

- bastide* A planned fortified town of the kind established in Gascony by John, Henry III and Edward I; the term is often applied to Edward's castle boroughs in north Wales.
- cantref* The basic Welsh territorial administrative unit.
- commote* A subdivision of the cantref, usually corresponding in size to the English hundred.
- cydfod*
(pl. *cydfodau*) A formal agreement, usually between two marcher lordships or between a lordship and the royal authorities, usually for the settlement of disputes or the extradition of criminals.
- cymorth* A payment due by tenants to a marcher lord, originally in the form of cattle.
- distain* The steward or seneschal of a Welsh ruler; in thirteenth-century Gwynedd the prince's chief adviser.
- gafael* A holding of land held by a kindred group. In some parts of Wales it was the predominant unit of tenure, in others it was a subdivision of the *gwely* (q.v.).

Glossary

<i>galanas</i>	Compensation for homicide payable by the kindred of the killer to the kindred of the victim under Welsh law and the procedure for payment.
<i>gwely</i>	A free kindred group, descended from a common ancestor and sharing proprietary rights in land, also the actual land held by the group.
<i>penteulu</i>	The commander of a Welsh ruler's household troops, usually a close relative.
<i>taeog</i>	A bondman or unfree tenant, corresponding to the English villein.
<i>teulu</i>	The household troops or warband of a Welsh ruler.
<i>tir cyfrif</i>	The most onerous form of unfree tenure. A township or community of this nature owed a fixed burden of rents and services shared equally among all adult males; if there were only one there, he owed it all.
<i>tir gwelyog</i>	A tenure under which an unfree kindred group held land in <i>gwelyau</i> . Although unfree, such tenants had a heritable interest.
<i>tir pridd</i>	A form of gage used extensively in medieval Wales to circumvent the prohibition of alienation of hereditary land. Land was initially pledged for a term of four years; if it were not redeemed at the end of this term, the pledge was renewed for a further term and this could continue indefinitely.

Glossary

uchelwr
(pl. *uchelwyr*) The term generally used for the land-owning class. It originally meant any free-born Welshman, but it later came to apply to those families of good descent who were the traditional leaders of their communities and the patrons of the poets.

MAPS

GENEALOGICAL TABLES

Gwynedd

Deheubarth

Powys

The Tudor Lineage