



Roman Britain and Anglo-Saxon Britain: Cultural Differences

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Introduction

- Historical models
- Two Main Questions
 - Cultural intertwining and invasion
 - Militaristic Differences
 - Societal differences
 - Differences in daily life
 - Invasion and society
 - What is the relationship?
 - Motives versus result

Pre-Invasion Britain

- Britons, NOT Celts
 - “Celt” is a term that refers to the Gauls in modern-day France
 - Simon James, “Peoples of Britain”, *BBC*, 2011
 - “Briton” refers to the culture on pre-Roman “Britannia”
 - Conglomeration of tribes

Roman Invasion

- Political invasion
 - Emperor Claudius needed to secure his throne
 - Neil Faulkner, “Overview: Roman Britain, 43-410 AD”, *BBC*, 2011
 - Stable internally
 - British resources were depleted
 - Evidence for motives

Anglo-Saxon Invasion

- Multiple reasons for Invasion
 - Societal
 - Climate
 - “Anglo-Saxons: a brief history”, *Historical Association*, 2020
 - Invitation
 - Gildas, “Gildas: from *Concerning the Ruin of Britain*”, *Fordham University*
 - Evidence for motives

Roman Military

- Best in the world
 - James Lloyd, “Roman Army”, *Ancient History Encyclopedia*, 2013
 - Highly disciplined
 - Innovative
 - Benefits
 - Food, shelter, salary, entertainment, Roman citizenship
- Uniform
 - 400 camps and garrisons
 - Mark Cartwright, “Roman Fort”, *Ancient History Encyclopedia*, 2016

Anglo-Saxon Military

- Not an organized military
 - “The Anglo-Saxons in battle”, *Edurete*
 - Surprise raids
 - Individual prowess
 - Oaths of fealty
 - Cultural emphasis on violence
 - Mandy Barrow, “Were all Anglo-Saxon people buried in Ships?”, *Primary Homework Help*, 2013



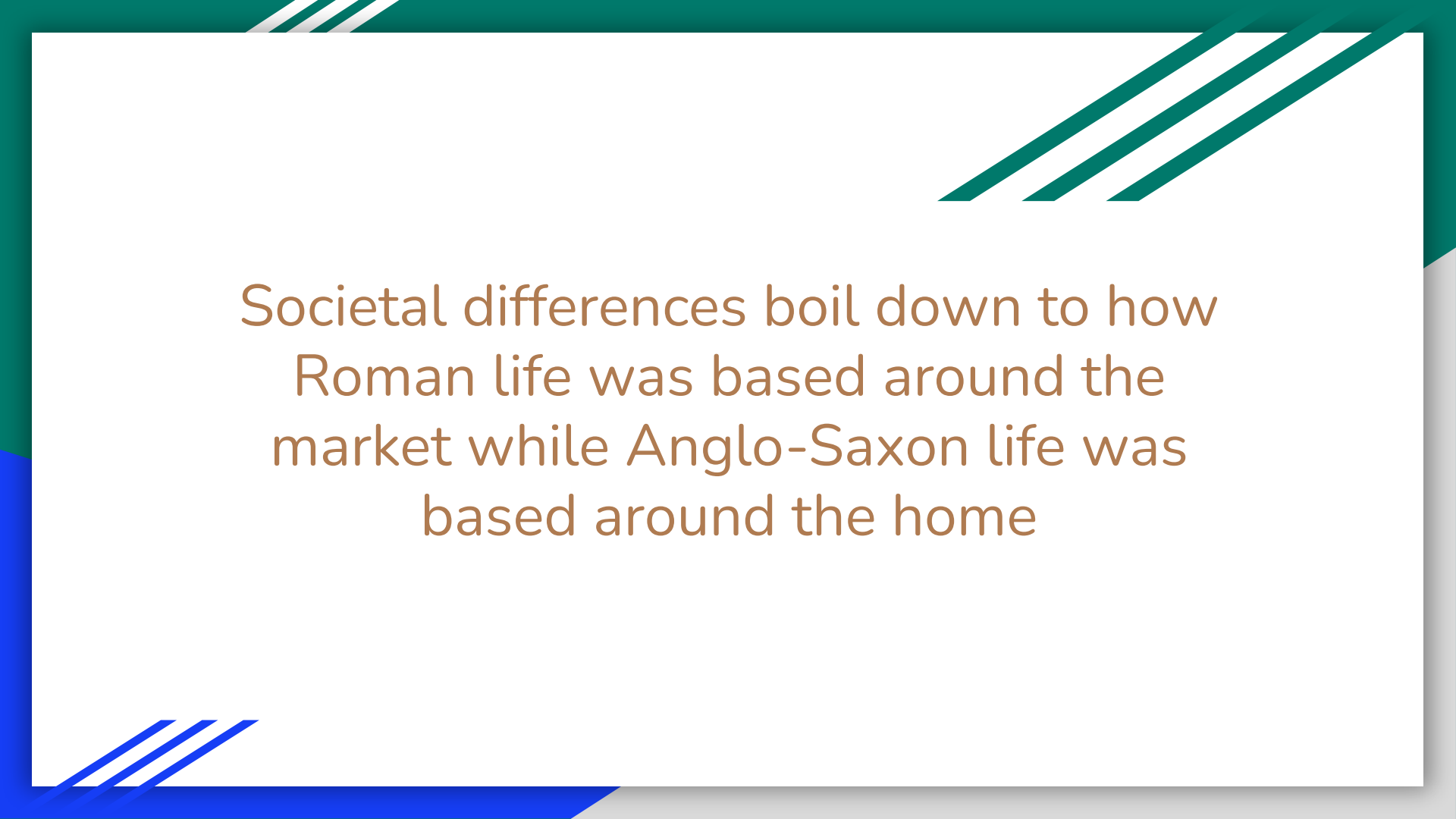
Militaristic differences boil down
to discipline and bonds of service

Romano-British Society

- Roman invasion, NOT an Italian invasion
- Britons were still a distinct culture
 - Rome upscaled and improved upon existing societal norms
 - “Roman Britain”, *The British Museum*, 2019
 - Towns
 - Roads
 - Steven Morris, “Britannia Superior”, *The Guardian*, 2011
 - Romanization was not as effective as in other areas
 - “Roman Britain”

Anglo-Saxon Society

- Much more rural
 - Population of Roman cities fell drastically
 - Gildas, “Concerning the Ruin of Britain”
 - Structured around the mead hall as opposed to the market
- Laid claim to the land as their own
- Structured on social class
- Christianity played a huge role
 - “Anglo-Saxon society pre-1066”, *BBC*




Societal differences boil down to how
Roman life was based around the
market while Anglo-Saxon life was
based around the home

Romano-British Daily Life

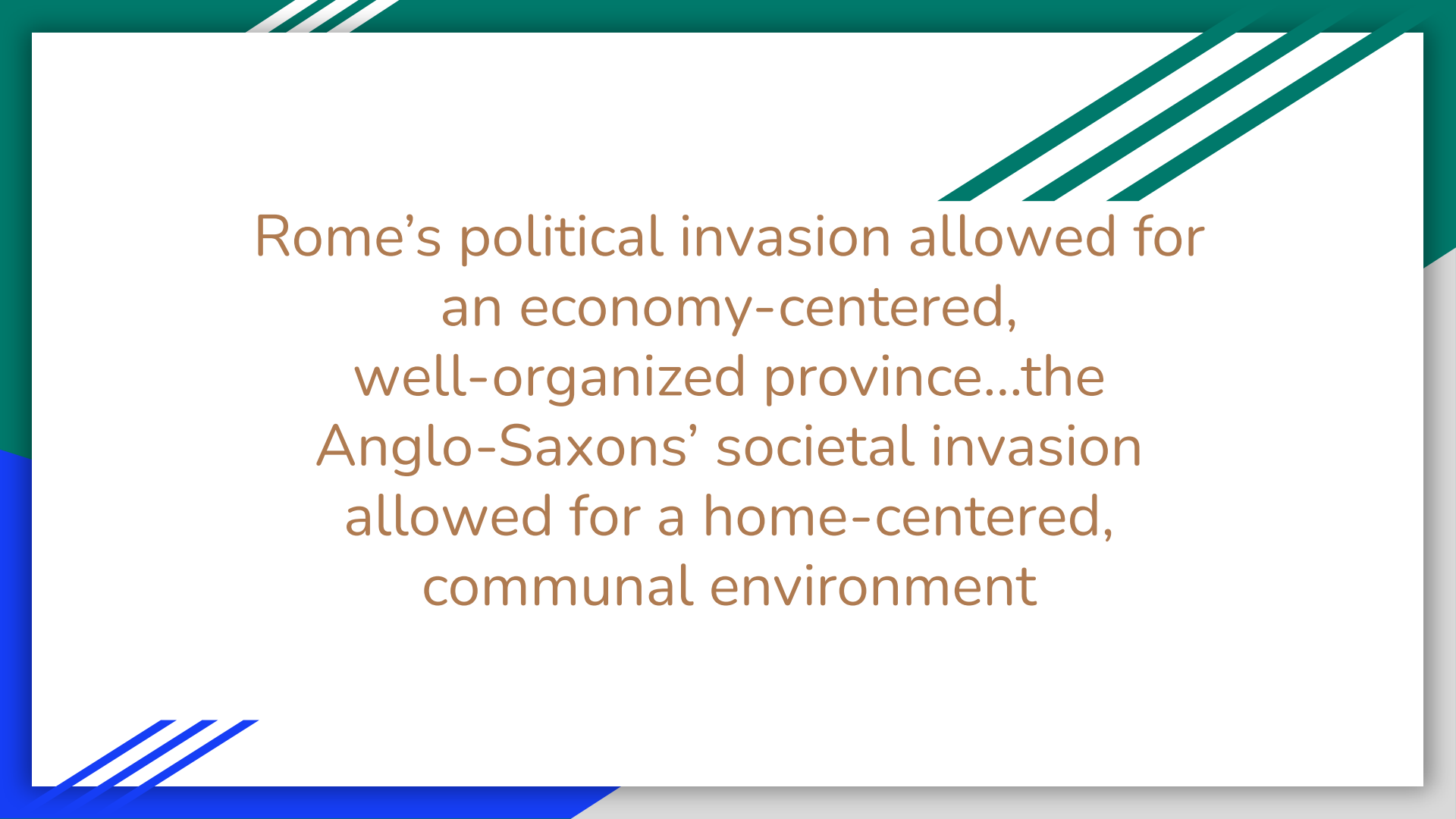
- Urban Life
 - Central Forums
 - “Romans: Daily Life”, *English Heritage*
 - Public baths and Amphitheaters
- Rural Life
 - Many countryside-dwellers were poor
 - Still a heavy reliance on the market

Anglo-Saxon Daily Life

- Much more rural
 - Markets still existed
 - More occupations centered on a rural focus than a mercantile focus
 - “Life in Anglo-Saxon England”, *Old English Teaching*
- Community life thrived
 - Mead halls were the center of entertainment and communication
 - Community games



Differences in daily life boil down to
Roman trade as the lifeblood of
society while Anglo-Saxon trade was
an individual way of life; economical
engagements versus societal
engagements



Rome's political invasion allowed for
an economy-centered,
well-organized province...the
Anglo-Saxons' societal invasion
allowed for a home-centered,
communal environment