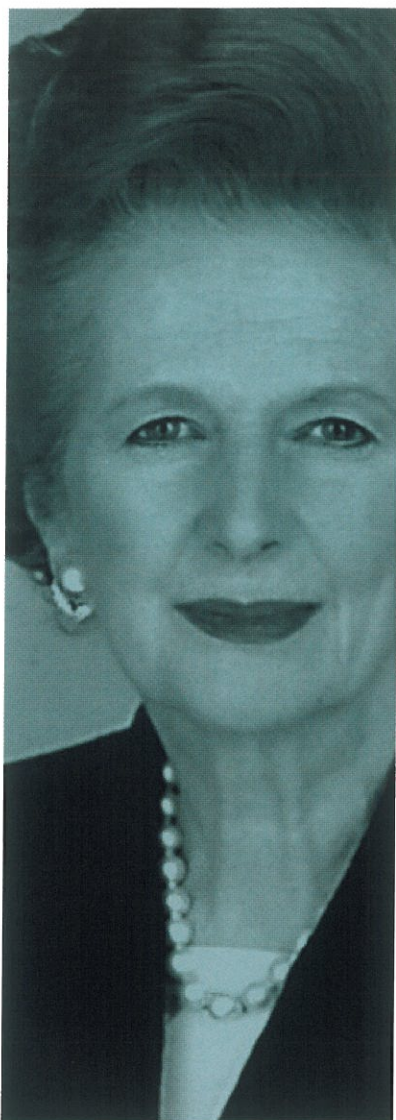




ICONIC BRITISH WOMEN from History

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EIHO SHA

はしがき

近年のフェミニズムの視点から書かれた女性を中心とした歴史についてのエッセイは多々あるが、本書は少し趣を異にする。そのタイトル **Iconic Women** から推測できるように、本書は時代の流れの中でそれぞれの生き様が象徴的意味を持った女性たちについてのエッセイ集である。

現代イギリスの社会の在り方や文化に大きな影響を与えたと思われる女性 15 人を取り上げ、それらの女性の人生と彼女たちがイギリスの現代社会や文化に与えた意義について論じたものである。とりわけそれらの女性たちの生き方の持つ意義については現代日本に生きる私達も考えてみるべき多くの問題を含んでいる。

本書で取りあげた 15 名の女性は必ずしもよく知られた歴史上の人物とは限らない。様々な背景を持つ女性たちがそれぞれの時代で興味深い生き方をし、それがその後のイギリス社会や現代世界に深く影響していることを考えさせてくれるエッセイ集である。各章では、単に歴史を描写するにとどまらず、現代社会が抱える諸課題にも焦点を当て、過去と現代の連続性とその背景にあるものについて、考えるヒントがちりばめられている。

英文は比較的平易な語彙を用いて書かれているものの、文章にはリズムがあり達意な英文となっている。

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注解者

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Chapter 1

Boudicca: Warrior Queen



Boudicca statue and Big Ben. Creative Commons. Photo by Anhad Arora

Boudicca (c. 30 – c. 61 A.D.)^①

The Romans invaded Britain in 43 A.D. Within a few years they had control of most of southern Britain. Britain had long had cultural and trading contacts with mainland Europe, and it seemed that people were happy to work with the powerful and successful Roman Empire. In what is now East Anglia^② this all changed when the Roman governor adopted a policy of brutality and humiliation^③ towards the native Britons^④, particularly the aristocracy. One Roman historian, Tacitus^⑤, says that Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, was publicly flogged. She then rose up against the Romans and burned down Camulodunum (Colchester^⑥) and the new town of Londinium (London), killing all the inhabitants. In the end, however, her untrained forces were wiped out by the Roman army. Boudicca is popularly thought to have committed suicide. She was then largely forgotten.

Roman accounts describe Boudicca as tall, with waist length hair of a fair^⑦ or red colour, and this is how she has been portrayed in modern times. She is also popularly thought

① **Boudicca:** 「ブーデ
イッカ」古代ブリ
トン人のイケニ族
(Iceni) の女王。

② **East Anglia:** イング
ランド東部の地方。

③ **humiliation:** 「屈辱」

④ **Briton(s):** ローマ時
代にイングランド
南部に住んでいた
ケルト (Celt) 系の
の民族。

⑤ **Tacitus:** 「タキトゥ
ス」A.D.55 ~ 120
頃のローマの歴史
家。

⑥ **Colchester:** イース
トアングリア地方
の町。ローマ人が
築いた。

⑦ **fair:** 「金髪の」

to have had knife blades protruding^① from the axles^② of her chariot, which would cut the enemy off at the knee as she rode into battle. She is shown in such a chariot in her early twentieth century statue^③ near Westminster Bridge in London.

5 Her Importance

Awareness of Boudicca revived in Victorian times, a time when Rome was admired, so a rebel against them might not be expected to be popular. However Victoria, not least through her name^④, was seen as a queen who presided over the inevitable, righteous expansion of the British Empire^⑤, bringing the benefits of civilization to ignorant Indians and Africans through military conquest. The highest military medal in Britain is still the Victoria Cross^⑥. The battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo^⑦ predate Victoria, but Trafalgar Square, Nelson's Column^⑧ and Waterloo station all date from her reign. Military prowess^⑨ was admired, and somehow the Roman military machine^⑩ and the bold Celtic woman rebel against that machine could both be used as inspiration for the Victorian imperial project. We may note in passing^⑪ that the Celtic name Boudicca itself means 'victorious', and also that Boudicca, a Celt, spoke something like modern Welsh, and most certainly not English.

The idea of the warrior queen can also be applied to Elizabeth I, particularly her speech at Tilbury^⑫ before the English fleet set off to face and defeat the Spanish Armada^⑬ in 1588, where she is reported as having declared: "I know I have the body of a weak, feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach^⑭ of a king, and of a king of England too."

The island of Britain was personified^⑮ in the form of a woman as Britannia^⑯ in Roman times, and she appeared on British coinage from the seventeenth century until very recently. She has usually been depicted seated on the waves, wearing a military helmet, holding a trident^⑰ in her left hand, with^⑱ her right hand holding a shield, which often has a Union Jack^⑲ on it. This is clearly a reference to a warrior queen, particularly in a naval context. Related to this is the pa-

① protruding: 「とびだした」

② axle(s): 「車軸」

③ her early twentieth century statue: 章末注を参照。

④ not least through her name: 「特に彼女の名前のせいで」

not least: 「特に」

through: 「～のせいで・～のおかげで」

⑤ British Empire: 「大英帝国」

⑥ Victoria Cross: 「ビクトリア十字勲章」

⑦ The battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo: 章末注を参照。

⑧ Nelson's Column: 章末注を参照。

⑨ prowess: 「勇気・武勇」

⑩ the Roman military machine: 「ローマの軍事組織・ローマの軍事体制」

⑪ in passing: 「ついでに(述べておくと)」

⑫ Tilbury: 「ティルベリー」 ロンドン東部にあるテムズ川沿いの町。

⑬ Spanish Armada: イングランド侵攻のために編成されたスペインの無敵艦隊。

⑭ the heart and stomach: 「勇気と闘志」

⑮ personified: 「擬人化された」 personify: 「擬人化する」

⑯ Britannia: 章末注を参照。

⑰ trident: 章末注を参照。

⑱ with: 付帯状況を表す。with + O + C。with her right hand holding a shield: 「右手に盾を持った状態で」

⑲ Union Jack: 章末注を参照。

triotic song *Rule, Britannia*, which started in the eighteenth century as an exhortation^①, *Rule, Britannia, Britannia, rule the waves*, but became in Victorian times a statement of fact, *Rule, Britannia, Britannia rules the waves*.

5 In 1982 Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands^②, a British colony in the South Atlantic. The Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher^③ presided over the successful military campaign to eject the Argentinians and restore British control. This made her hugely popular in Britain. She had already gained the
10 nickname Iron Lady, and her resolve in a time of war (however minor) placed her in the tradition of women warriors.

Another line in *Rule Britannia* asserts that *Britons*^④ *never, never, never shall be slaves*. This is a large part of the appeal of Boudicca and her successors. British people may have ad-
15 mired the Roman Empire, but those same people were aware that Britain had been conquered, and thus admired those who fought for freedom. According to Tacitus, Boudicca said to her army before battle, 'this is a woman's resolve: as for men, they may live and be slaves'. Elizabeth kept Protestant Eng-
20 land free from the oppression of Catholic Spain. Margaret Thatcher saved the British inhabitants of the Falklands from a military dictatorship. Some British people have seen membership of the EU as a form of slavery to Brussels bureaucrats. There was no threat to Britain in Victorian times, but Victoria
25 was the inspiration for military exertion.

Boudicca herself was a fighter, a brutal one, while her successors have not been. The strong woman in a position of command, who undertakes the traditionally male role of war leader, is admired, but she may also be questioned, as Eliza-
30 beth I's reference to female physical weakness shows. These women are exceptional, even transgressive^⑤, and admired as such, but they remain exceptions.

① **exhortation**:「(国威) 発揚」

② **Falkland Islands**: 「フォークランド諸島」南アメリカ大陸沖合にあるイギリス領の島々、1982年4月イギリスとアルゼンチンの間に領有権を巡って紛争がおこったがイギリス軍が勝利した。

③ **The Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher**: Chapter 15 参照。

④ **Britons**: 「イギリス」古代史においては「ブリトン族」。P.1 の注④を参照。

⑤ **transgressive**: 「限度を超えている」

*****NOTES*****

her early twentieth century statue: 1902 年、ロンドンのウェストミンスター橋のたもとに戦車に乗ったブーディッカの像が建てられた。

The battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo: 「トラファルガー海戦とワーテルローの戦い」 Napoleon との戦いにおいて、イギリスはトラファルガー海戦（1805 年）とワーテルローの戦い（1815 年）において勝利をおさめた。

Nelson's Column: トラファルガー海戦のときのイギリス海軍の提督 Nelson の活躍を顕彰してトラファルガー広場に建てられた柱の上の像。

Britannia: イギリスを象徴する女性の像（ブリタニア）。Britannia は古代ローマ時代には大ブリテン島の呼称であった。

trident: 先端が三つ又になった槍。ギリシャ神話の海神 Poseidon が持っていることから、制海権の象徴としても使われる。

Union Jack: イギリス国旗。Union Flag ともいう。England の St. George、Scotland の St. Andrews、Ireland の St. Patrick とそれぞれの守護聖人の十字架を重ねたもの。

Questions

A Choose the best answer to the questions.

1. Where did Boudicca live?

- a Rome
- b London
- c East Anglia
- d mainland Europe

2. Who was not a real person?

- a Boudicca
- b Elizabeth I
- c Victoria
- d Britannia

3. What is the Victoria Cross?

- a a station
- b a medal
- c a crossroads
- d a church

4. What language did Boudicca speak?

- a a form of Welsh
- b Latin
- c Old English
- d French

5. Which leader faced no foreign threat?

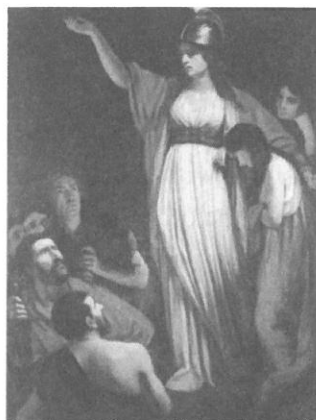
- a Boudicca
- b Elizabeth I
- c Victoria
- d Thatcher

B Write the answers to these questions.

1. Why was it quite easy for the Romans to take over southern Britain?
2. What did Boudicca look like, according to the Romans?
3. How are the names of Boudicca and Victoria similar?
4. What do British people think of when they see Britannia?
5. How is the religion of England different from that of Spain?

C Decide if the following statements are true or false.

1. The Romans behaved well in East Anglia.
2. British people imagine Boudicca on horseback.
3. Waterloo Station is named after a battle.
4. Spain attacked England in Victoria's time.
5. The British have mixed feelings about the Roman Empire.



Queen Boudicca Haranguing the Britons, painted by John Opie (died 1807)
Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain

Hild: Holy Woman



Saint Hild memorial, Whitby
Wikimedia Commons. Photo Mark A. Wilson

Abbess^① Hild (or Hilda) (c. 614 – 680)

What we know about Hild (or Hilda) derives almost entirely from information given by Bede^② (673 – 735) in his *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (731)^③. She was born
5 into a noble family in Northumbria, a kingdom in what is now the north east of England and part of Scotland. Her father was the nephew of the king, Edwin, and she and Edwin were converted to Christianity at the same time.

For thirty three years she led a secular life^④. Then, after a
10 period in East Anglia, she took over as abbess in a monastery in Northumbria, before becoming founding abbess of Whitby, a double monastery, with women living on one side of the church and men on the other. She seems to have been a committed Christian, living a simple, poor life, with all goods in
15 common^⑤. She gained a reputation for wisdom, and powerful men came to consult her. Yet she also noticed the poetic talent of a shepherd boy, Caedmon^⑥, and encouraged him to become a monk (we still have some of his poetry).

At the Synod of Whitby^⑦ in 664 people met to decide on

① **Abbess**: 「女子修道院長」

② **Bede**: 「ベダー・ヴェネラビリス」アングロサクソン期のイングランドの聖職者、歴史家、神学者。

③ *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*(731): 「イングランド教会史」ベダーによってラテン語で書かれたイングランドにおける教会の歴史。

④ **a secular life**: 「世俗の暮らし・宗教とは関係のない生活」

⑤ **with all goods in common**: 「すべての物を共有して」

⑥ **Caedmon**: 「カドモン」イングランド最初の詩人といわれている。

⑦ **Synod of Whitby**: 章末注を参照。