Introduction

The period of history known as the Middle Ages lasted about one thousand years, from 500 A.D. to 1500 A.D. It began as the Dark Ages, the stormy period of time that marked the disintegration of the great Roman Empire. That same empire that once spread law, order and language to the civilized Western world by the fifth century could no longer defend, control and maintain the territories it had conquered in its golden past. The barbarians from the North picked and plundered their way across Great Britain and Europe with cunning savagery ending the classical period of Roman culture and beginning an age of turmoil. From this age of turmoil, the men and women of the Middle Ages, possessed with the great instincts of survival and justice, laid the foundations for the great Ages which were to follow. In this book you shall learn about the people who lived in the Middle Ages, their heroes, costumes, laws and many of the things that made the Middle Ages a unique period of time.