ABSTRACT ANGLO-SAXON: THE KEY TO STEPHEN KING’S "THE DARK TOWER" by Jennifer Dempsey Loman 2009 Master of Arts in English California State University, Chico Summer 2009 Stephen King engages in medieval imitation in his seven-volume series The Dark Tower, drawing upon many aspects of the Middle Ages—the Arthurian myth, the thematic concepts of comitatus and exile, Anglo-Saxon etymology, and the narrative frame of the dream allegory – to construct within The Dark Tower novels interconnected riddles. Indeed, The Dark Tower series is an extended riddle for both King’s Constant Reader and for the series’ protagonist, Roland Deschain of Gilead. King dares both Roland and the reader to answer a "Who am I" riddle about Roland and a “What Am I” riddle about the Tower, the focus of Roland’s grail-like quest. Through a close reading of King’s magnum opus, I demonstrate that an awareness of Anglo-Saxon riddling is the key to unlocking the interrelated riddles and the puzzling ending of The Dark Tower novels.

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The Dark Tower series tells the story of Roland Deschain, Mid-World’s last gunslinger, who is traveling southeast across Mid-World’s post-apocalyptic landscape, searching for the powerful but elusive magical edifice known as The Dark Tower. Located in the fey region of End-World, amid a sea of singing red roses, the Dark Tower is the nexus point of the time-space continuum. So begins Book I of Stephen King’s iconic fantasy series, The Dark Tower. Part sci-fi novel, part futuristic dystopia, part spaghetti Western, and part high fantasy vision, The Gunslinger tells the story of Roland Deschain, Mid-World’s last gunslinger, who is tracking an enigmatic magician known only as the man in black. Anglo-Saxon England was an era marked by vicious bloodshed, religious fervour, and warring kingdoms. Yet it also saw the development of great art, poetry, and
institutions from which emerged the unified kingdom of England, belying the popular characterisation as a “dark age”. Indeed, the name “England” derives from the “land of the Angles”. The Anglo-Saxons were Germanic tribes that immigrated to England, either via invitation, hired as mercenaries by the Romano-British, or through invasion and conquest. Originally worshipping pagan gods, it was this period that saw the spread of Christianity ...

What Were the Key Causes of the Collapse of Communism? Twentieth Century. England’s Civil War Queen: Who Was Henrietta Maria? Anglo Saxon Kings. In the so-called Dark Ages during the fifth and sixth centuries, communities of peoples in Britain inhabited homelands with ill-defined borders. Such communities were organised and led by chieftains or kings. King Arthur, a larger-than-life figure, has often been cited as a leader of one or more of these kingdoms during this period, although his name now tends to be used as a symbol of British resistance against invasion. The invading communities overwhelmed or adapted existing kingdoms and created new ones - for example, the Angles in Mercia and Northumbria. Some British kingdoms initially survived the onslaught, such as Strathclyde, which was wedged in the north between Pictland and the new Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria. Stephen King's Dark Tower series is my favorite epic work ever. Over the course of eight books he creates worlds, characters and scenarios that truly display just what an awesome imagination the man has. The Dark Tower is massive and sprawling and a good guide is invaluable when making the trip to the Tower with Roland and Co. This concordance, updated to include the newest "interquel" "The Wind Through The Keyhole" is a must-have for anyone who has fallen in love with King's magnum opus. flag 6 likes · Like · see review. Of course the pinnacle of everything is the Dark Tower series, and this gives many of the linking clues from characters to key terms. flag 1 like · Like · see review. Dec 30, 2018 Paula rated it it was amazing.