Domesday Book: A Reassessment

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Domesday Book, the original record or summary of William I’s survey of England. By contemporaries the whole operation was known as the description of England, but the popular name Domesday i.e., doomsday when men face the record from which there is no appeal was in general use by the mid-12th. The Domesday Book - compiled in 1085-6 - is one of the few historical records whose name is familiar to most people in this country. It is our earliest public record, the foundation document of the national archives and a legal document that is still valid as evidence of title to land. Based on the Domesday survey of 1085-6, which was drawn up on the orders of King William I, it describes in remarkable detail, the landholdings and resources of late 11th-century England, demonstrating the power of the government machine in the first century of the new Millennium, and its deep thirst for informa.