Anglo-Saxon kingdom to his north. The “Danelaw” remained under Danish control, but virtually all of the south was now united under a single king (see Map 5.3).

Like all successful leaders of the age, Alfred was an able warrior, but he was also an imaginative leader who looked to the future. As Alfred himself described his efforts, he was someone who wandered through a great forest collecting timber with which others could build. Among other innovations, Alfred issued a far-reaching law code, systematized military recruitment, assembled a navy, and built defensive strongholds throughout his lands. Many of these forts (or burgs) eventually developed commercial