

LENG1225

British Cultural History

Introduction to British history and geography

Definition of culture

Culture is often considered to be one of the most complicated words in English. The first definition was relative to cultivation and the management of crops and animals. It later changed to refer to the process of humans' social and intellectual development.

The term 'culture' share similarities with the one of 'civilization', however, 'civilization' admits the existence of its antonym, 'barbarism'. Culture does not hold this aspect of a superior culture or a universal goal like 'civilization' implies with its contrary. Culture is more local and egalitarian, we can define it as more of a "way of life" connected to certain nations, periods, etc.

To what refers British/English-speaking culture?

The subject of studies is vast and clearly needs to be specified. English-speaking culture could refer to many things, one of which includes England, Wales, Scotland and (Northern) Ireland. It could also refer to a larger sector known as the anglosphere, UK, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand, US. This second denomination comes from the five eyes alliance, in which those five countries would share sensible information. Other possibilities are that it refers to most of the globe (since english is the 2nd most spoken language), or even the Commonwealth of Nations (composed of former colonies that are still in collaboration, 1/3 of the globe). For this course the focus will be on the history and culture of Britain and the world.

Geography of Britain



British Isles
incl Ireland **ca 5 million**

United Kingdom
does not include Ireland
ca 70 million

Germany	80m
France	70m
Italy	60m

England (London)
ca 55 million

Greater London ca 10m
Manchester, Birmingham

Scotland (Edinburgh)
ca 5.5 million

Wales (Cardiff)
ca 3 million

Northern Ireland (Belfast)
ca 2 million



British Isles
incl Ireland ca 5 million

Atlantic Ocean
Irish Sea / Celtic Sea
St George's Channel
(English) Channel

Channel Islands
Isle of Wight

Anglesey
Isle of Man

Inner/Outer Hebrides
Orkney/Shetland Islands

Brexit and brexit culture

The place of the UK in the European Union

In **1972** the UK joins **European economic community**. Already at that time, people are unsure about joining, but after a referendum in **1970** who turns out positive, the UK joins the EU. But from the beginning the United Kingdom differs from the EU concerning some decisions, and when the members start moving towards one unified currency, Britain does not follow.

In **1992**, the **treaty of Maastricht** marks the day of which the EU becomes not only economic but political as well. This sudden shift from a simple platform for economic collaboration to a whole political alliance scares the UK who fears a loss of sovereignty. This caused the creation of the political party **UKIP, United Kingdom independence party**.

After a **referendum** in **2016** which obtained a majority of 'leave', the UK finally leaves the EU in **2021**. This, supposedly, is the beginning of Global Britain. After the referendum and since then, we observe two groups: the leavers and the remainders.

But there is an economic cost in leaving the EU, this event has caused turmoil and dwindling support in the UK. Also, after the invasion of Ukraine, the UK agreed to military collaboration with the European Union. The country is unlikely to return soon yet keeps close link with the continent.

The **UKIP** now switched to **Reform UK**.

The causes of Brexit

==> Brexit and UK/EU relations + fears of immigration

For the leavers, they were multiple reason to leave the union, those are:

- 1) EU was expensive and developed unnecessary rules
- 2) To “take back control of immigration”, it, at first, targeted low-skilled workers from Eastern Europe but then extended to refugees during the refugee crises. Today, we see the trend of “raise the colour”, based on a manipulated rumour of an English flag being taken down, this trend shows itself to be racist and anti-immigration

However, when the referendum was done, there were countless debates about what leaving the EU would look like, and for a reason since the Isle and continent are closely linked:

- 1) Questions raised about what would be of EU citizens living and working in the UK and UK citizens living and working in the European Union.
- 2) While still leaving the political union, the UK wanted to remain in the single market and avoid taxes.
- 3) A political problem was also the fragile border between Ireland and Northern Ireland, with who the UK still maintains a tensed relationship.

Now when observing the campaigns made by leaver, we can distinguish multiple tactics of manipulation and dubious claims, such as:



As the **NHS** is struggling with the population getting older, the cost of medical treatments and the cut in fundings, the leavers used that opportunity to redirect the anger towards the EU. This claim is manipulative because it insinuates the money send to the EU is going to be used in health, which is not the case.

==>tensions withing the UK: news and polarization

Due to highly polarized broadsheets, the rise of tabloid (playing on emotions) and privatization, who goes against the neutrality of government-funded institutions, the new consumption in UK leads to the growth of extreme and a high separation (polarization).

- The cuts in fundings of well-established institutions like the **BBC** leads to privatization (paid by private funds) --> this is criticized by leading politicians who uses this for their campaigns against/for Brexit. The anger is redirected to the UK.

- Moreover, tabloids (like **The Sun, The Daily Mail**) keep bashing the EU harshly. People also tend to put more trust in those tabloids than in other broadsheets (**The Guardian** for the left; **The Telegraph** for the right).

- As people are growing distrust in experts and their knowledge, they are turning to the internet for information. Yet social media does not verify claims. Instead, it grows its networks via popular posts and map your choices to sell that info and redirect your feed to similar posts --> your only exposed to your first opinion + their goal is gain not informing. In today's political elections, the margins are thin (meaning that no political party is winning by far).

==>UK nostalgia and the belief of exceptionalism

During **WWII**, it is isolation that benefited the United Kingdom and before that, the British expansion (via the British empire) led them to power. However, this empire has declined and shrunk massively during the **60's** and **70's**. This period coincides with the UK joining the EU.

This idea of a "shrinking islands" fed the desire for a "global Britain". The population is feeling that they keep losing lands and people because to joining the **EU**, linked to the coincidence.

The idea of the "splendid isolation" in foreign policy and the mindset of "**the little Englander**" shows a desire of sticking to themselves.

==> response to globalization

Standing against the **EU** also represents standing against globalization. A lot of **UKIP** members (including leftwings and socialists) support mining and fishing towns, which are populations most at risk of losing their jobs by globalization. Those supporters of **UKIP** are angry about the decline of the welfare state (where the state's primary role is protecting and promoting the economy and well-being of its citizens) and the embrace of neoliberalism in labour.

Neoliberalism preaches: 1) a minimal state (-->less government spending) 2) privatization of service 3) deregulation of the corporate sector (less rules about work).

Some socialists are also against immigration because if foreign workers are cheaper and easier to exploit, the wages go down for everyone in the country.

The leavers want to avoid mundialization and neoliberalism by isolating themselves in their system and thus, leaving the European Union.

Brexit in culture

Due to the study of a scholar, we can distinguish 5 strands of **Brexit**, which don't only apply to literary texts but also other forms of culture.

1. Stories about Brexit/referendum/aftermath which are explicit in their inspiration in Brexit, but some pieces of culture are more implicitly linked to Brexit:
2. Stories that celebrate English unity by returning to past episodes in which the country resisted foreign enemies. Often seen as a last beacon of liberty vis-a-vis continent in WWII
3. Critical reflections on fantasies of a mythical past and its abuses in the present, occasionally with a focus on fascist figures
4. Critical reflections on cultural perceptions of race and immigration in post-colonial narratives, modified by results of Brexit vote
5. Stories of the "left behind": poor citizens in post-industrial towns, who relied on the welfare state and who do not benefit global trade

The Crimean War (1853-1856)

It is often called a forgotten war since it is quickly overshadowed by the horrors of WWI and WWII, yet this war included famous figures (Florence Nightingale) and had a strong cultural impact via authors like **Tennyson** and **Tolstoy** (**The charge of the Light Brigade** by **Tennyson** + paintings of mythical "glorious failure"). It is a crucial geopolitical event at that time and that still has relevance today.

- It was the first total war (everyone was included, even civilian) and first modern war due to the use of rifles, steamships, telegraphs, trench warfare. It is considered modern also because of war reporters and photographers, which went directly on the war fields to inform the population. It is considered successful because of the good strategy and because of a favourable public opinion.

-It is a turning point in history because 1) it is the cause of tensions in **Balkans** (which are in fault for WWI) 2) it impacted the European vision of Russia and Russian vision of Europe, this fuelled the western Russophobia 3) it is behind the deep Russian resentment vis-a-vis of the West (that decided to support Ottomans instead of Christians).

The causes

At that time, **Nicholas I** is the Emperor of Russia, and he is concerned about the south of his empire.

- The “power vacuum”, meaning the loss of control from the Ottoman Sultan, causes the decline of the Ottoman empire
- For political, military and economic reasons (exportation of wheat), **Nicholas I** sees an interest in controlling the **black sea**
- But he is also worried about the instability around the southern border, there many Orthodox Christians live close to Muslims
- One goal is to “purify” the Russian peninsula, **Crimea**, of all Muslims since it is considered by the Empire as “**the cradle of Russian Christianity**” (because of **Vladimir the Great’s** conversion, **1000**)
- The immediate “cause” is to “protect” Orthodox Christians in the Ottoman Empire and in Holy Lands (the Balkan and the place where the church of the nativity is)

--> this is about territory, empire and money but also religion, and the belief of Russia as more than its territory is deeply anchored in those reasons.

This leads to a conflict implicating Russia, the Ottomans, France and the British Empire.



The battles



During the first stage, the Russian army moves to **Constantinople** and destroys the Ottoman fleet during the battle of Sinope, they then fire the town. But the Ottoman were stronger than expected and they had the support of European powers, because of that, instead of being seen as fellow Christians like they expected, they appeared as savages.

In France, the ambitious **Napoleon III** is in charge. He redevelops Paris (Haussman) and resists the Russian in Poland + Ottoman Empire, he hopes to restore France as a great power. He also resists the British in the East.

British empire is, 1) like France, resisting the Russians in Poland and Ottoman empire 2) supporting modernization and reform of the **Ottoman empire** (because turkey is a vital export market). In addition, the brits 3) want to secure a land route to India 4) has the support of the public opinion because of Russophobia in the press (described as "savage Asiatic nation threatening the liberty of Europe as whole").

In later stages, the Ottomans had already repelled the Russians. But public opinion was now fully against Russia and screaming for blood because the French and British soldiers were now in the Black Sea, and invading **Crimea**. Since the armies were already there and already dying of sickness, the war continued.

The French army is in better shape: they have larger force, more experience, and the "**zouaves**" (Daredevil, élite infantry) were part of it, they also had proper supplies.

On the contrary, the British army is in poor shape, not modernized since the Napoleonic war, and we see a cleavage between soldiers and the bad aristocratic leaders, they were also lacking proper supplies.

There were three main battles:

The **battle of Alma, 20 September 1854**. During this one, the British and French secured a victory via 1) the bravery of the zouaves 2) the technical superiority of the Minié rifles (who could shoot up to 1000m vs 300m for the Russians weapons).

But they made a strategic mistake. Instead of directly attacking **Sevastopol** where Russians were unprepared, they maintained a siege which allowed the unprepared Russians to use their good artillery but also fuelled the team spirit of Sevastopol's units of sailors and prolonged the **siege of Sevastopol**.

The siege wasn't the lightning victory in a tropical paradise like imagined. The soldiers are not prepared at all; they end up living in trenches or freezing in the hills once winter arrives. This led to the **Battle of Balaklava**, where the Russians attempt to cut the fragile supply lines.

During the siege, two things happened: 1) **Lord Raglan** gives a vague order that leads to a surprisingly useful suicide mission to capture artillery, this is called the **Charge of the Light Brigade**. --> this had to do with the idea of stupid aristocrat leaders sacrificing soldiers by their bad orders "**lions led by donkeys**" 2) The public learns about the supply problems and freezing soldiers via the letters and journalists, so they start knitting **balaklavas** for the soldiers.

The Russians fail to break the siege and then Nicolas I died. Soon after, the Polish and Italian fighters join the French and British. Those two switch to war industry to produce up to 50000 shells (=explosive projectile) a day. Ultimately **Sevastopol** falls after a successful assault (because of French) and the Russians evacuate via **long pontoon bridge**.

The results

As a direct result, the Russians have lost around 500000 people. After the war all parties agree to protect Christians in the ruins of the Ottoman Empire, but Russia must accept the demilitarization of the Black sea, which is seen as a humiliation.

In terms of long-term results, this fuels Russian nationalism because it "proved" that the West wants to destroy Russia even though they tried to protect Christians. Secondly, Russians Christianised Crimea and nearby Ottoman territories. Finally, Russians cannot go West, so they turn to the East and threaten British India, which was why British first stop them in their invasion --> this leads to even more problems.

In the medical profession the war had two main results. The first one is the modernization of nursing, when the leaders finally agreed to send professional nurses, by figures like **Florence Nightingale**, but also a forgotten one, **Mary Seacole**, a black women working closer to the battle front and drawing on traditional medicine. Today, the myth of Nightingale, the **Lady with a Lamp**, is considered exaggerated, mostly because the soldiers had to sail across the black sea to arrive to her hospital. Secondly, this allowed the creation of the modern triage system (priority to the most endangered instead of the one you can save) and the use of anaesthetics for operations (linked to **Nikolay Pirogov**).

In terms of army, it shows the resistance of Britain against “bullies” and how the real heroes were the troops and not the commanders. This second myth will lead to **Queen Victoria** visiting the soldiers to try and reconnect troops and aristocracy.

Wales and the Tudors

40 – 1400



Wales is a country with roots “older than England”. Its history is tied with myths, **Celts** and the druids but we have no written records.

1) Connection with the Celts

The word **Celt** is a broad name for a very large group in Europe, with big variations depending on the place. Yet those people are united by **Celtic languages** and their many clashes with **Rome**. Since a hundred years, we see a sort of **Celtic revival**, a modern fantasy linked to the truth but mostly to new age practices.

From approximatively **40 to 400**, Wales was a part of **Roman Britain**, they were never fully Romanised but much more than Scotland and Ireland. Many tensions emerged during that Roman period.

- The introduction of Latin, this never led to the loss of the Celtic language
- The two nations show a high contrast, the example of the straight line of Roman vs the sinuous curves of the Celts is often taken

- The **revolt of Caratacus, around 50**, which didn't happen in Wales but showed a resistance to the Roman. He used guerilla tactics and occupation stronghold at Camulodunum but was defeated (see **Boudica**). The myth is that **Caratacus** was led to Rome and supposedly said 'Because you want the world, we should accept universal slavery?'

After the conflicts with Rome, Wales had many conflicts and was distinct from the **Anglo-Saxons** (England, which was more Romanised). Wales was distant from the continent and shielded by its mountainous terrain, so it was difficult to invade. The word "Wales" itself comes from Wealh and mean foreign/foreigner, that is why Welsh usually refer to themselves as **Cymru** (=compatriots).

There were multiple kingdoms in Wales, the most important was **Gwynedd** in the north (**ca500-1280**). This is potentially the source of the red dragon on the flag:

- 1) symbol of Gwynedd
- 2) Roman army standard
- 3) dragon = military, hero, leader
- 4) Merlin: 'clash of red (Wales) and White dragon (England)'

This period saw many raids led by Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, yet the separate identity remained because of some reasons:

- 1) **Laws of Hywel Dda (ca 1000)** which introduced a separate Welsh legal system (in which he included rights of women like divorce, property, ...)
- 2) Anglo-Saxon king builds **Offa's Dyke (ca800)**, a extremely long wall to defend and separate, this reinforced the sense that "over there is different than over here"
- 3) Wales had its own Celtic saints and **Saint David (ca600)**, the patron saint of Wales (saint David created a hill). Those were different from England's
- 4) they had their separate vernacular language and literature: **Brittonic Celtic**, which was different from Ireland and Scotland's Gaelic Celtic, and which is also, as of today's the strongest of those languages.

On the Welsh language:

Welsh seems to us weird and familiar at the same time, it is notabbly the language which inspired Tolkien's elfic language in Lord of The Rings. Some basic rules are, c=k w=ou/u ll=thl/chl/hl

4= pedwar 3=tri

Cymru=friends, fellow country-men

Llan = place with a church, a parish

Gwdihw = an owl

Hwyl = great fun/fun/goodbye

Y Gododdin (ca 600) was a heroic defeat in the north of England, it illustrates a rupture caused by Anglo-Saxons between the North and South (Scotland vs Wales)

Around 1150, during the Anglo-Norman period, **Welsh Principality**, regions led by local **princes of Wales** like Gwynedd were opposed to **Welsh Marches**, border regions controlled by **Marcher Lords**, who were semi-autonomous Anglo-Norman barons. The tensions were due to the growth of the Welsh Marches which were making Wales smaller, but also because those barons had to defend England.

Gerald of Wales, a writer and religious figure part of the Marcher society, was the first person to publish texts on Wales and bring awareness of the cultural tensions. Other texts like **Mabinogion** were oral tales of heroes, giants and witches. Around **1150**, **Geoffrey of Monmouth** writes about the prophecy of **Arthur's** return.

Llywelyn ap Gruffud was a **Prince of Gwynedd** and is known for his resistance against Marcher Lords. Later he is recognized as the **king of Wales** by English **Plantagenet** king in the important **Treaty of Montgomery (1270)**. But the relation will soon turn sour with **Edward 1st. Edward I** is against the treaty and decides to invade Wales via the **Edwardian conquest (around 1280)**. For these battles, he builds roads and castle all around Wales, define, in legal documents, Wales as part of England (disregarding the Wales Princes), and he turn the title "**prince of Wales**" into the official title for the heir to the English throne to discredit the princes.

In the following years, this will create tensions with English lords because Welsh people treated as second class people, even in Wales ==> so **revolt of Owain Glyndwr/Owen Glendower (1400)**, who is seen as the "last prince of Wales". This revolt encountered a series of military alliances and successes, yet the **French** and **Scots** support did not come.

1400 – 1840

Around 1485, at the end of the war of the roses, started a new royal house, the house of the Tudors (who are semi-Welsh, by their roots in Anglesey, tied to Gwynedd). Famous figures are part of this house:

- Henri VIII, who breaks with Rome because of his lack of male heir and who wants to take part in reformations => tensions between catholic and protestant
- Elizabeth 1, a great ruler with a long and important reign because: 1) religious compromise: she resolve/manage religious tensions introduced by her father, a

Protestant vs Catholics/Puritans, she introduced a moderate form of Protestantism 2) she defeats the threat of Spanish Armada in 1588

=> but Elizabeth doesn't marry and don't have children (however it is actually great she did not marry because the good candidate was catholic), her death introduces the shift toward the Stuart dynasty.

Positive development from the Tudor: 1536 marks the end of the Principality vs Marcher Lords system, Wales is officially integrated into Engl (compared to Irish) yet there are prejudices towards the Welsh and their laws/languages, called "uncivilized".

--> End of patronymic system in Wales (son of, daughter of) to be replaced by fixed surnames like in England

Negative development: 'one of ours', since the Tudor are linked to Wales, yet they are uninterested in the region. The Act of Union unified England and Wales in 1536, yet, compared to Ireland and Scotland, Wales doesn't have its own powerful city and rely on London.

In the 17th century: the Welsh participate in the colonial project:

Henry Morgan: a famous pirate, and an owner of slaves/plantation, becomes governor of Jamaica.

During that same century, cattle/sheep and mines businesses increase in Wales, this lead to deforestation (at some point, more sheep than people). But also, the profit often goes to England rather than Wales.

On the culture side, the unique identity of Wales remains. The language continues to be important via print culture (bible translation into welsh) and in terms of religion Wales turns towards Protestantism. However, Puritanism is limited and mostly stay contained in England.

18th and 19th century

The 18th and 19th centuries saw an enormous rise of industrialization and related shift towards cities (>< agriculture). The industrialization was helped by the coalfield in the south of Wales, especially in **Rhonda Valleys**. During that time, people were emigrating to Australia or the US but, this wave was quite insignificant compared with Ireland or Scotland.

But **1840** has its bunch of social tensions.

- **Rebecca Riots**: protest of agricultural labourers against taxes (taxes of tow gates), dressed as women (Rebecca, who the lord helped cross a gate in the bible)
- **Newport rising**: fight for the right to vote and the right to secrecy of the vote

Also, the nation is still stressing its separate identity: Welsh wants their own library/university to be equal to England, and they also want to present themselves as the original people of Britain, 'Ancient Britons', this is linked to the rise of **Celtomania**.

But, while they're preaching their separate identity from England, there is tension between the **south** (industrial) and the **north** (agricultural) of Wales; the south is said to be "way more English" due to industrialization and back and forth of workers.

Around **1840**, the government studied the root of the riots and concluded that they were due to "poor state of language, education and morals", this is called the **Treachery of the Blue Books**, and this conclusion infuriated Welsh.

20th century



'**Wales Awakening**' (1900), a painting of a dragon and allegorical women immersing from the sea, it is the Celtic "birth of Venus". This painting expresses the nationalistic allegory and the growing sense of its own identity at the start of the century. This strongness is reinforced by the creation of national library and a museum. The government also takes measure to maintain Brittonic by creating the **Language Society** and introducing **Language Acts**. But the region is still dependant on coal ("king coal") and they fail to develop an alternative.

Three important politicians emerge during that century:

(Liberal) **David Lloyd George**: will be prime minister during WWI and will evacuate people to Wales to keep them safe during

WW2

(Socialist) **Aneurin Bevan**: will help creating **NHS** in **1948**

(Nationalist) **Gwynfor Evans**: will boost **Plaid Cymru** (political party of Wales) and create national TV channel in Welsh

During this century, both Scotland and Wales will establish parliaments in **1997**. It is called a 'devolution' because Wales remain part of the United Kingdom, but they technically govern themselves and have their own parliament in **Cardiff**, the **Senedd** (Whitehall and Westminster in London). During the Brexit referendum, Wales voted to leave the European Union, this shows the strong ties with England.

Some famous people are Dylan Thomas, Anthony Hopkins and Catherine Zeta Jones

Throughout history, Wales has known many periods of tensions between: Celts and Romans; Welsh and Anglo-Saxons; the Principality and the Marcher Lords; the North and the South of Wales; the optimist and the pessimist; and finally, the Welsh and the English.

Boudica, her rebellion and cultural legacy

Boudica is an actual existing person compared to Arthur who was maybe not real. Around **60**, she revolted against the Roman rule, and this revolt, even though it didn't have a lasting political impact, is still alive in the Welsh mind. They are limited and biased evidence around her (roman sources), but her existence has been confirmed by archaeology.

When **Caesar** visited **Britannia** and made alliances with local king before the large-scale invasion (Britain as a roman province **40-400**), Britain was seen as the mysterious and untamed edge of the known world.

Once **Caratacus** defeated, the romans put their legions and temple at **Camulodunum** and established a system of British "**client kings**", in the sense that to be in charge, the kings had to pay taxes, give troops and weapons to Rome.

The **Iceni 'tribe'** in the East of England, who are thought to have been resisting Roman customs, had a client king called **Prasutagus**. When he died, the Romans beat his wife **Boudica**, raped his daughters, enslaved his relatives and confiscated its territory.

At the same time, the Roman Governor decided to attack **Anglesey** with the goal of having full control. This city was the centre of power for scholars, druids and other religious figures. And many supporters of **Caratacus** had fled to **Anglesey**.

After the rape and violence against her family, **Boudica** rises up and unites various tribes then lead the way to **Camulodunum** and the temple of **Claudius**. She ambushes and destroys the **Ninth Legion** and lay waste to **Londinium** (a town important for trade and military logistics). When the Roman governor returns, **Boudica** and her army are defeated. They had guerilla tactics, 100000 (vs 10000 for romans) and light chariots but no armours and no discipline.

Today, people return to **Boudica** as the female figure of Britain winning against Roman. In Latin sources, she is depicted as tall, blond, with a piercing gaze, and a rough voice --> she is identified as a foreigner but as someone of importance and with power. In texts from **Cassius**, she is described as a threatening barbarian, but her tribe is clearly wealthy and virtuous. With her

cloak, she is the representation of a “**dux femina**”, a dangerous female ruler who constitute a menace to male leaders.

But in **Tacitus's** texts, Boudica is quite a positive figure for her loyalty to her people. She fights for her liberty and for revenge. She is highly considered by **Tacitus** compared to the client queen of **Cartimandua** who betrays **Caractacus** (even though it led to the Roman winning). She is also considered masculine compared to the feminine **Nero**.

But in reality, she was not always a great leader; she was violent and caused atrocities; this was caused by her lack of proper discipline. However, we have to keep in mind that the story is a description with an alteration to follow the roman narrative.

Later in history, she is seen as a savage barbarian committing atrocities but, she also enjoys more positive reflexion as a warrior woman under **Elizabeth 1st** reign. After, she also became an icon for imperialism and British nationalism, the reason is that she anticipated the fall of the Roman empire and thus the rise of Britain as a new world empire. However, this last interpretation is quite ironic knowing the whole story of **Boudica** stands against roman imperialism.--> statue in London, spear and mantle, daughters not fearful or defeated

Finally, she is also seen as a protective mother, she fails to protect her daughters, but she then fights to avenge them, she is not a warrior queen, she is a mother. She has a statue in Cardiff considering her a “Hero of Wales”.

But she is not Welsh? There are two reasons: 1) She was associated with a British Celtic group that will later be pushed to Wales; thus, she is seen as an ancestor of Wales. 2) her rebellion stopped the roman governor to destroy Anglesey, the heart of Wales.

In more modern contexts, Boudica is used as a feminist icon; her image was used by **Suffragettes**, fierce women fighting for their liberty. She is also compared to political figures/concepts like **Margaret Thatcher** and **Brexit**.

England and the Plantagenets

The kings who made England

English rulers were at first **Anglosaxons**, then Normans, after the dynasty shifted to the **Plantagenets**, the **lancastr/york**, the **Tudors**, the **Stuarts**, the **Hanoverians**, and finally, the **Windsors**.

Between **1150-1400**, the **Plantagenet** were a crucial dynasty because important changes happened that still have impact to this day:

- 1) language: official were originally records in latin and the court spoke versions of french but as time passes the language switch to english as an official language
- 2) idea of **kingship**: the king was the most important figure of the entire country, but during their dynasty, it switched to the king having duties to the realm and having to listen and partner with his council and the parliament → linked to the **Barons wars**. This history of freedom and tyranny is linked to the creation of **Magna Carta**.
- 3) (dubious) military glory : the cult of **King Arthur** helped to unify Britain under the English Control; the cult of **Saint-George** (saint patron of England) helped to unite the king and the nobles which helped calm the tensions between the king and his aristocrats. It has links with the myth of the fearsome British archers and the **Hundred Years War**.

Ten kings are interesting in this chapter:



The Anarchy of the Plantagenet Empire

Around **1100**, **Henri I** was the king of England and duke of Normandy, he stimulated a true anglo-norman nobility in terms of culture as well as cross-Channel landholdings. As his son is returning to England in the **White Ship**, an incident happens. The crew and passengers are drunk, and the ship crashes into a rock, the prince doesn't survive. The king appoints his only surviving child as a new heir to the throne, the **Empress Matilda**, who is a widow of the **Holy Roman Emperor** in Germany, and remarried to **Geoffrey Plantagenet of Anjou** in France.

But when the king died, the barons and bishops abandoned this potential female ruler and sided with **Stephen of Blois**, Mathilda's cousins. Stephen then lost the support in England and Normandy, and Mathilda set up an alternative government in Bristol. Around **1150** a **civil war** between the courts started. England became a war zone and crumbled into Anarchy.

Mathilda's son had a claim to the English throne and he married the feisty **Eleanor of Aquitaine**, making him controlling half of France. Circa **1150**, Mathilda's son invaded England and defeated the **king Stephen** who failed to control England and protect the lands of his barons in **Normandy**. The son promised to bring peace rather than war and started his reign as **Henry II**. The King started a reconquest of England and the royal couple had many children.

It was a success but, when **Henry II's** advisor **Thomas Becket** was made archbishop of **Canterbury**, Becket resisted the King's attempt to restrict the power of Church on the court (Constitutions of Clarendon); it was not what Henry expected, Becket protected the pope's power → **Thomas Becket** was executed in **1170** and then became Saint in Italy for him being a "low-born clerk".

The wife and sons rebelled against their husband and father, **Henry II's** long rule, but he defeated them all after public penance in front of Becket's tomb. He then tries to create his succession but the plan created conflicts between the children and the sudden death of Henry II made things worse.

The Lionheart and Magna Carta

Henry II died and so did his oldest sons. **Richard I** became king with the help of the new French king around **1190**. He heard that Jerusalem had fallen to Saladin, so he raised the taxes to join the **Third Crusade**. He left the kingdom to his mother, **Eleanor of Aquitaine**, and his brother **John**.

Richard I imposed himself as a military legend after violently taking control of Sicily and Cyprus, he joined the **siege of Acre**, and ordered a daring assault on the strategic port of **JaFfa** which was considered suicide mission.

But his brother **John**, in charge momentarily of England, was plotting to take the English crown with French aid. Richard also caused repeated clashes with allies of England which led to his imprisonment in Germany. The **Lionheart** need a really large sum of money to be freed, so again, taxes are raised. Another problem is that Richard was too busy fighting and didn't have any heir. Ultimately Richard is freed and took back control in France after restoring order in England. Around **1200**, he dies in an unimportant siege due to a crossbow which caused an infection.

His brother **John I** is the new king (**1200**) and the problems multiplied: he accepted the French king as an **overlord** of French Plantagenet lands; he loses allies and land in France until only **Aquitaine** is left, and that because of his mother, he will be called "**John-lack-land**"; he cruelly

imprisoned his young nephew, aged of 7 years old, who will later "mysteriously disappear"; finally the English Barons refuse to help John retakes land in France because they have lost all their land.

John is desperate for money to pay allies and mercenaries, yet it is hard because the wars in France now have to be fully paid by England. His solutions were to put "justice for sale", corruption of justice system; seize church property; put high fees for and brutal persecution of barons.

→ a terrible event showing his cruelty is when a mother and her young child were imprisoned together to starve to death after accusing the king of killing Arthur of Brittany, at the end the mother tried to eat the child.

→ **Robin hood**: there are no source texts but only ballads from around **1450**; however there are allusions in earlier texts that already assume a wide popularity in England and Scotland.

At first, Robin is an outlaw opposing the Sheriff of Nottingham, he is an archer living in the forest with Little John. At that time, he was already kind towards the poor and critical to the clergy. Later the story becomes popular at court, it is even mentioned in Shakespeare's. And he becomes a folk hero via the "steal from the rich to give to the poor" mindset. But this myth is linked to the Plantagenets in later versions: the problem of corruption is associated with **Richard I's** absence and poor management. In new versions, the story is linked to earlier kings of the Plantagenets but when looking more in detail into the earlier versions it was maybe linked to later kings ? It originally sets during the reign of a **Edward III**, a period known for 1) dangerous criminal groups like Coterel gang (in **Sherwood forest**) 2) Widespread use of livery (uniforms and badges) for urban guilds 3) the golden age of archery

After the taxes reform during John's reign, the rich began to take control in Wales, Scotland, and Ireland but the invasion of France was a failure. In **1215**, several barons reject John as king and receive support of Rich Londoners, leading to the famous document of **Magna Carta** which states

- 1) everyone is entitled to justice
- 2) people should be free from arbitrary persecution
- 3) if the king breaks the **Magna Carta (MC)**, barons will intervene

But the problems continued and John went against **Magna Carta** so the Barons left and helped France invade England, finally, John died.

The Hammer of the Scots and the Black Prince

Henri III is nine but became king in **1215**: the French invaders are forced out after a military victory of England (on land and sea) and the young king confirms **Magna Carta** and the principal of consensual government (=financial aid for concessions). Yet the court favourites are corrupted and the plans for abroad fail. So the barons seize control and the ruler becomes **Simon de Montfort**, he develops the role of parliament, but he isn't liked and is eventually pushed out by the king's son : **Edward I** in **1270**.

Edward I needs money, including for troops in France and for a new crusade that nobles are willing to co-fund after **Edward** reissues **Magna Carta** and the **Edict of Expulsion in 1290**, forcing **Jewish** people to leave England . But he can't go on crusades because forces are needed elsewhere :

- 1) Edward has to invade Wales 3 times, clearing forests, constructing roads, and building a ring of castles around the heart of **Gwynedd**
- 2) There is **crisis of succession in Scotland**, he uses this to assert his **overlordship** but this prompts "**Auld Alliance**" with France (enemies of England) --> **William Wallace** and **Robert the Bruce** rebel; forcing Edward to become the "**Hammer of Scots**" and invade, leaving massive debt

Around **1300**, **Edward II**, son of **Edward I** is in trouble because of his father's debt and because of rewarding his favourites, notably by promoting (his lover ?) **Piers of Gaveston**, this, is insulting to the French-born Queen, **Isabella of France** (his wife, also called the she-wolf) and the barons. So a reform is demanded ('homage is to the crown, not the king's person') and **Piers of Gaveston** is brutally executed. Finally, there are troubles in **Scotland** when **Robert the Bruce** secures a victory in **Bannockburn**, he then raids the north of England and opens front in Ireland too.

The King clashes with multiple barons and rejects the reform so he is forced to resign in **1330** after his wife **Isabella of France** and the barons show support to the king's son.

Edward the III seized control from the Queen and the baron and his reign was a success. He has many children, including the "**Black Prince**" and his good reputation. He binds the barons to the crown and creates a chivalry order, **The Order of The Garter**. He also develops new tactics like archers, that pay off in Scotland and France. The king has a claim to the French throne via his mother and he starts the **Hundred Years' War** from **1340** to **1450** and secures famous victories between **1340** and **1350**.

- **Battle of Sluys** (control of the channel to the English)

- **Siege of Calais** (200 years)
- **Battle of Poitiers** (huge ransom for the french king)

He instated the **Statute of Pleading in 1360** which made English the language used in court and in law contexts.

The end of the Plantagenets

There are setbacks during **Edward III's** reign:

- 1) military victories are expensive (he ruined his italian bankers)
- 2) The **Black Death** arrived in **1350**, killing rich and poor, in some places up to 60% of the population. So there were fewer workers and the statute of labourers fixed the wage at a pre-plague level
- 3) The new French king, and French people were mad at England violence, leading to the loss of territorial gains
- 4) The **Black Prince** became ill after costly battles in Spain, and he ended up dying before his father
- 5) The king is old and weak, so a phenomenon of power vacuum caused by his mistress
- 6) The Parliament, made up of lords and commons, supported his young son (despite Henry III), due to the threats in the Channel and on the Continent

Richard II arrived in **1380**, he was young and preached peace at first. During his reign the **Canterbury Tales** were written and the **Wilton Diptych** painted. But:

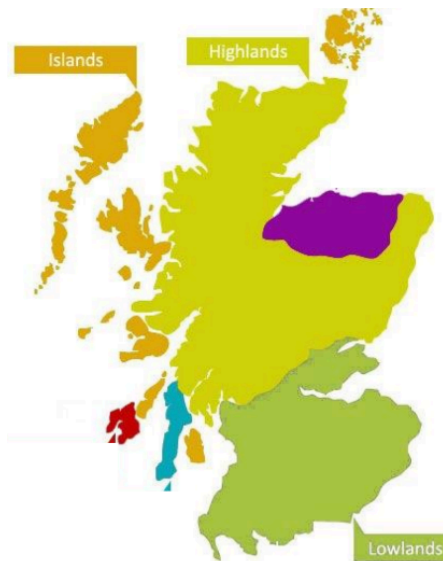
- New taxes caused the **Peasants' Revolt** in **1381** led by **Wat Tyler**, forcing the king to retreat to the tower of London and accept the peasants' demands, just to then ignore them.
- The king's favourite were killed by the parliament, this result in a bloody purge of the household
- The king developed his own private barons and army, they were at war with their own country. He ends up like a tyrant and broke **Magna Carta**

The king was deposed by his cousin **Henry IV** of the **House of Lancaster** in **1400**, whose mother tongue is English. The **Lancaster** house is notably linked to the **War of the Roses**.

Scotland and the Stuarts

Basic facts

The flag of Scotland is **St Andrew's Cross**, the cross of the patron saint of Scotland: **Saint Andrews**. There are three different parts of Scotland: the **highlands**, the **lowlands**, and the **islands**. The main cities are **Edinburgh**, **Glasgow**, **Stirling**, and in terms of population, it is 1/10 of England. The **Great Glen Fault** cuts Scotland in two: the South to east which are important for agriculture because the North and West are barren and see a lot of rain. The "**central belt**" is where most of the population lives.



The place is famous for bagpipes, whisky, haggis, kilt (woollen cloth with tartan pattern), Scottish words like; "wee"(little), "bonnie" (pretty), "dreich" (gloomy/ rainy weather) and its pop culture representations. The Scottish diaspora comes from supposedly millions of so-called "scots" living abroad (which would be 10x the actual population living in Scotland) so it is profitable to make pop culture for those so-called 'scots'.

Caledonia and the Canmores

The Roman name for Scotland was **Caledonia** and **Britannia** for the southern part. Southern Tribes were romanized but not the northern tribes, the "**Picti**", known for their guerilla warfare towards Romans.

The defeat of the **Caledonian Calgacus** (but told by Tacitus so the account is biased) creates the myth of "the last of the free". Scotland never fully romanized, an interpretation to that is that the Romans didn't care. Defeating the **Picti** would have been terribly expensive for not much pay off, since the soil is bad in the north, they also had to worry about other conflicts.

The Roman built two walls "to keep out the barbarian": the **Antonine Wall (142)** and **Hadrian's Wall (122)**



After the departure of the Romans, there were developments between **500 to 1000**:

- In the West: ties with Ireland, via the Gaelic kingdom of **Dal Riata**
They were literate people, converted to christianity (compared to Pagan Picts), and had a military fortress called the fortress of **Dunadd**.
- In the south: pressures from the Anglo-saxons
The Romanized Britons in the South of Scotland were clashing with the kingdom of **Northumbria**
- In the east : Vikings from Norway had a serious impact on the Picts

So there were 3 parts to Scotland: with the Britons in the south, the Gaels in the West and the Picts in the North and East. The Picts spoke a version of celtic (Brittonic Celtic) that was different from the Gaelic Celtic spoken in Ireland and by western Scots.



Between 1000 to 1300 happened a gradual shift towards a united "Scotland" or "**Alba**". The Gaels, nicknamed **scoti** (raiders from the sea) took over: **Kenneth I** pushed out the Picts, but would present himself as if in charge of a united Scotland (Alba). He received the help of the Vikings.

Constantine II, with the help of the Celts and the Vikings fought the Anglo-Saxon king **Aethelstan** who wanted Britain as one big country. This led to the **Battle of Brunanburth around 1000**, with an important question at stake: should the British Isles be one or several kingdoms ? The Anglo-Saxon ended up winning.

Many other kings in this period, including The Red King (1050), **Macbeth**.

Malcom III established the **Canmore** dynasty around **1100**, they spoke a version of English. After the Norman conquest, the border of England/Scotland was unclear so he attacked **Northumbria**, following his long obsession to add it to "Scotland". This was followed by the **Treaty of Abernethy (1100)** in response to this attacks on **Northumbria**, Scots now had to accept William the conquerant as an overlord and Scotland was part of England. Also, the **Treaty of York (1250)** stated that the king had no claim to the North of England yet the treaty fixed a border as where England stopped and Scotland started.

The **Maid of Norway** ended up dying on a boat, she was the last of the **Canmores** dynasty, and was supposed to marry **Edward II** (English). After her death on her sea journey (**1300**), probably

due to an illness or food poisoning, the descendance is unclear. Many candidates (18) to be the new king of Scotland caused tensions in the country.

William Wallace and Robert the Bruce

The Scots invited the English king for help but the strategy backfired as **Edward the 1st** (known for the Edwardian conquest of Wales, and as **the hammer of the Scots**) demanded:

- 1) the overlordship over Scotland and a swear of allegiance (**Ragman Roll**)
- 2) the Scottish crown jewels, the "**Stone of Destiny**", had to be ceded to the English crown (and were included in throne of London and only given back recently)
- 3) Scottish support for the wars in France (yet the creation of the "**Auld Alliance**" between Scotland and France kind of went against that)

Scottish men had to pay taxes, deliver men, and lose their independence. It was similar to the fate of Wales but Scots didn't want that so they revolted.

The first Scottish war for independence:

William Wallace defeated the English during **The Battle of Stirling Bridge** around **1300**. He will then be found and executed but his persecution created even more unity amongst the Scots

Later, the figure of **Robert the Bruce** killed his rival in a church. But he then struck a deal with the bishops of Scotland; what they wanted was to defend the independence of the Scottish Church (called **the Kirk**). **Edward I** raised the "dragon banner" in response, **Robert the Bruce** will then start a guerilla war.

England was defeated in the **Battle of Bannockburn** around **1315**, near Stirling. Which led to the **treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton** around **1330**.

- 1) Scotland is declared independant
- 2) The Bruces are in charge of Scotland
- 3) The English/Scottish border is now fixed

The Stewarts of Scotland

Around **1400**, the Anglo-Norman barron in charge of the royal household's domestic affairs, a steward, married Robert De Bruce's daughters which created the house of the **Stewarts**. A name derived from the function, a steward. The apparition of the house brought problems:

- 1) The long tradition in which the king listens to important people (nobility, bishops, people) is broken by the Stewarts who firmly believe in absolute power

- 2) The usage of the gaelic language is in decline, and the Stewart court uses Scots, a dialect of lowlands with anglo-saxon roots, aka a version of english

At that time, many clashes happened between the **Stewarts** and other powerful figures in Scotland like: the **Clan Douglas** in the South (the so called Lowlands) and the **Clan of MacDonalds** in the west West (Lordship of the Isles).

The **Clan of MacDonalds** is an Island kingdom that is distinct and crucial, they notably helped Bruce as a fugitive and sent men for the **battle of Bannockburn**.

An idea emerged of the Stewarts as weak. The **Douglasses** wanted the south and the **MacDonalds**, the West and North. These tensions with the Donalds led to the brutal **battle of Red Harlaw** around **1400**. And the tensions with the **Douglasses** led to the **Black Dinner** of **1450**, when the young Douglasses were invited by the Stewarts only to be massacred.

The **Stewarts** prevailed against the Highlands and Islands, causing the end of the Gaelic world.

Around **1500**, the **Stewarts** and the **Tudor** dynasties joined via marriage, which ended the clashes in the two regions via the "**Treaty of Perpetual Peace**". Yet this treaty was broken by the Scottish who chose to respect the **Auld Alliance** with France.

The Stuarts of England and Britain

The **Tudor** dynasty did not lead to stability in the English and Scottish relations. They will be succeeded by the **Stuarts**.

Henry VIII had no male heir and via the Reformation, kicked out Roman catholicism. His successor, **Elizabeth I** introduced: 1) compromise of **Protestantism** + 2) military success : Spanish armada defeated in **1588** but 3) she had no husband and no heir.

Mary Stuart, the Queen of the Scotts had Tudor blood and, thus, a claim to the English throne, but she was Catholic and plotted against **Elizabeth**, which led to **Mary** being beheaded.

Mary's son was **James** and he responded diplomatically. He became **James VI** of Scotland but also **James I** of England when Elizabeth died without heir. This is the shift from the **Tudor** to the **Stuarts**.

James I/VI is an important figure, he is king of England and of Scotland, which are to separate kingdoms. He was also very influential in terms of culture → **King James Bible, 1611**, a new

translation of the bible and introduction of several famous expressions (some might say more than Shakespeare).

“A thief in the night”

“An eye for an eye”

But there were tensions

- 1) James preferred Britain to England
- 2) He had no money because he believed in absolute monarchy and was thus in conflict with the parliament
- 3) He is known as "**Rex Pacificus**", he didn't want to fight. He wanted peace with Spain rather than defend the protestant cause in Europe
- 4) The **Catholic Gunpowder Plot** is foiled in **1605**: it was a shocking terrorist plan to destroy the king, his heirs and parliament
- 5) His daughter, **Elizabeth Stuart** became **Queen of Bohemia** after marrying a German king

The bad choices of James's son, **Charles I**, led to his execution and a civil war caused by said execution. There were also tensions with Scotland because the absolutist **Stuarts** wanted to change the **Scottish Kirk** so that it would no longer be led by the church elders but by the king. After the civil war (**1640-1650**), the monarchy is restored. Yet the population feared **James II** (son of Charles I) as a Catholic ruler.

The **Glorious Revolution of 1688** (glorious because peaceful) deposed the king and looked for a protestant replacement. From now on the king had to listen to the parliament.

Mary, daughter of **James II** was married to **William of Orange**, king of the Netherlands and clearly protestant. They will rule as a "constitutional monarchy".

The **Darian scheme** describes when Scotland, really poor, wanted to gain money via colonies. They took control of a colony near **Panama**, but it was an enormous failure. With **New Edinburgh**, Scotland had bankrupted itself. This led to the **Act of Union of 1707**, ended the Scottish parliament and caused the unification of Scotland and England.

Eventually, **Queen Anne** had no heir, and only Catholic Stuarts were left so the throne went to the Protestant king **George I** of the House of **Hanover** (tied to James I via Elizabeth Stuart).

But there was a revolt led by the exiled Catholic Stuarts with the support of France. This was called the **Jacobite Rebellions of 1715 and 1745**. It aimed to restore the **Old Pretender** (James III)

and **Young Pretender** (Charles III). It, however, became an "heroic failures" with defeats including the **Battle of Culloden (1745)**.

It resulted in a push to integrate the Highlands into Great Britain by breaking the clans system, the Gaelic culture, and banning kilts. Many Scottish left for New England to avoid the famine and religious strife.

Ossian, Scott, Enlightenment

James Macpherson (1750):

He is known for the **Works of Ossian**. Supposed ballads circulating in the Highlands that are remnants of epic texts by a blind bard from the **3rd century** about the final days of Celtic Glory. This was a European sensation: translations, praise of Goethe and Napoleon. It was even called the Homer of the north.

But his work is fake : sources show that 1) it is more recent 2) of Irish origin 3) and partly made up by JM using real Irish fragments as "part of a lost story of Scottish epic" with a style akin to Homer.

Walter Scott (1810-1820):

He had a historical interest as a writer, he wanted to preserve folk tales and ballads in long poems then turned it to novels. He "invented" the new literary genre of the "**historical novel**". His book **Waverley** is on the **Jacobite rebellions**, and it was another European sensation.

He had a weird position on the matter of Scotland 1) he celebrated the epic struggles of Scotland's past 2) yet he was completely committed to modern peace.

His work created an admiration, even in the king's eye, so this king came to Scotland dressed as a Highlander. It created a love for Scottish culture and landscapes similar to what Wordsworth did to the Lake District.

The end of the Highland clans and end of Old Scotland caused people to leave for New England. Yet, it was also the birth of **New Scotland** during the **18th century**, with the "North Britons".

1. The brave Highland regiments (Highland charge running down a hill with a sword) were now shock troops of the British armies, present during the Crimean War and in battles on the Indian Subcontinent.
2. **Scottish Enlightenment** from **1700** to **1800**, is caused by the reformation and led to an increase of literacy and important figures

David Hume :empiricist philosopher and knowledge via senses

Adam Smith:economics, theory of the free market ruled by invisible hand

James Hutton: earth older than 6000 (will inspire Darwin)

James Watt: modify steam engine, crucial part of industrial revolution

3. After the union, **Glasgow** became a crucial port for transatlantic trade. It caused great wealth because of the **Tobacco Lords** via the ruthless hold on Tobacco trade and it profited greatly from slavery. The Scottish Enlightenment figures helped to excuse and justify the horror of slavery.
4. A period of agricultural change: Highland clearances between **1750** and **1850**, removed people for sheep, creating the new **Scottish Diaspora** since people had to be moved out.

Scotland in the 20th century

The **20th century** knew three major developments

- 1) There were episodes of social unrest related to voting rights and labor conditions. The Scottish industry was successful because they didn't pay people. This led to the **working class revolt in Glasgow** and rent strike in **1915**, led by **Mary Barbour**). The industry was in decline after the wars, so the tradition of emigration continued.
- 2) emergence of nationalism : the creation of the **SMP Scottish National Party** in **1930's**. People in favor of a **Scottish Home Rule** were, at first, pro union and later against union. There was no real momentum during **WWII** and the creation of the **NHS** after ended up uniting Britain. In the **70s**, "**Flower of Scotland**" became the unofficial national anthem; It was followed by the discovery of North sea Oil which Scotland tried to claim. The **referendum on devolution** in **1979** led to Scotland governing themselves and having a parliament, **Holyrood** in Edinburgh.
- 3) Scotland was the home of famous writers like **JK Rowling**, but also **Irvine Welsh**. As of today, it is also home for working-class poverty and extreme drug crises.

Recap of kings and queen



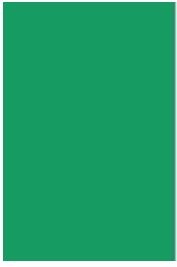
Ireland and the Troubles

Basic facts

Technically, there are two "Irelands", the **Republic of Ireland**, with **Dublin** as a capital, 5 millions of people and part of the European Union. And **Northern Ireland** with **Belfast** as its main city, with 2 millions of people and part of the UK.

The **Celtic Tiger** represents the growing economy but the name is ironic because Ireland is technically the 1st colony of England through the labouring of Colonialism and imperialism, the only one in Western Europe.

There are four historical provinces: **Ulster** in the north, **Leinster** in the east, **Connacht** in the west, and **Munster** in the south. The flag is green, white and orange, supposedly representing the ideal of peace between catholics and protestant. Its patron Saint is **Saint Patrick (St George=England; St David=Wales; St Andrew=Scotland)**.



Irish culture is varied and internationally popular , with U2, Lankum, Irish pubs, many writers (Bram Stoker, James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Eimear McBride, Sally Rooney).

Their language is Gaelic Celtic and is largely different from Roman languages. Their names are widely popular (Cillian, Siobhan, Saoirse, Aoife, Niamh, etc).

As of today, the psychological impact of the Troubles is still observable yet the country is still resilient.

Early Ireland in seven steps

Ireland comes from “**land Of Eire**”, a Gaelic goddess. The Romans called it **Hibernia**, meaning the land of winter.

There are seven aspects/phases of early Ireland:

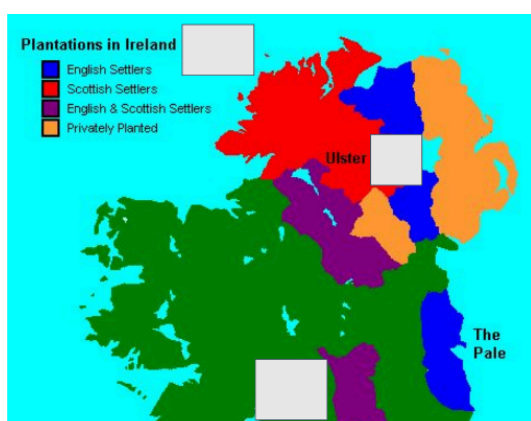
- 1) there was no **Roman** invasion even though they were aware of the Island: they found no real advantage and they were already struggling with the Picts in Britannia and Caledonia. They traded and had interactions but they were fairly autonomous
- 2) The **Celts** (especially the Gaels) had ties with Scotland. They were 5 kingdoms, the 4 historical provinces and the area around Dublin
- 3) The **Brehon Laws**, there were mainly oral but they stated that no one was above the law, as well as the right to use common land, relative equality of women (divorce, property), etc. It was a quite modern system
- 4) The **Gaelic Sagas** was an oral saga dated from around **600**, with multiple cycles dealing with heroic exploits from pagan and pre-Christian times.
 - The **Ulster Cycle** narrates the national epic of The **Cattle of Cooley** about the conflict between **Connacht** and **Ulster** and the warrior code
 - The **Fenian cycle** with stories related to **Finn MacCool** and his Fenian warriors (narrated by **Ossian**), about war but also virtue (cf Arthur and knights)
- 5) the arrival of Christianity with **Saint Patrick** around **400**.

→The Irish monks are natural successors of Gaelic Brehons/druids, they are educated experts who played a crucial role after the fall of Rome in re-christianizing Europe and the Anglo-Saxons → they are known for their illuminated manuscripts and stone high crosses.
 →**Patrick** is the patron saint of Ireland, he was supposedly a Roman citizen from Bristol. Around **400** he was taken captive by Irish raiders but escaped back to England, yet he returned after a vision, "baptized thousands" and then "banished snakes" from Ireland. He also used the **shamrock** to explain the **Trinity** to the so-called High-King

6) The Viking raids (Vikings from Norway vs danish in England) from **800** to around **1000**, were attacks on monasteries, which had no united resistance. They turned Dublin into an important outpost. Vikings realized Ireland was useful if you wanted to attack England, they later shifted to Anglo-Saxon land instead of Ireland (more fertile). Around **1000**, **Brian Boru** became High King of Ireland, and defeated notably the Vikings.

7) Ireland always had ties with England, they were crucial but complicated and violent. We can distinguish three important moments between **1150** and **1350**.

- There was unease over the independence of Irish Church compared the rest of the Church. The pope, an English man for the first time, found it hard for them to be recognized in Ireland because there was no centralized power, so Pope granted the "**Lordship of Ireland**" to the English king Henry II via a papal bull Laudabiliter a around **1150** → it started the idea that "England has claim to Ireland".
- The King of **Leinster** asks the English king for help after a conflict with the High King and anglo-norman nobleman known as **Strongbow**. The High King agrees to help with the conflict only if **Strongbow's** son can marry the daughter of the **Leinster** King and then their child becomes king of **Leinster** → they will take control of **Leinster** around **1200**.
- There is a slow loss of English Influence, firstly by alliance between **Robert the Bruce** and Ireland. But also because the anglo-irish are slowly being gaelicized and bad for England because they see Irish people as "barbarous" (event though they have many scholars and saints) and because Ireland is "the backdoor into England", to resist this assimilation they state the **Statutes of Kilkenny** around **1350**, which consists in forbidding English men from marrying Irish and speaking Gaelic .



Ireland under the Tudors and Cromwell

For a time the English rule was mainly limited to the Pale, the area around Dublin in Leinster (the richest province), but this changed with the **Tudor** who wanted to "take proper charges of Ireland" around **1500-1600**.

Henry the VIII broke with Rome and the pope around **1530**, creating a deep split between Protestant England and Catholic Ireland. Catholic European powers (enemies of England) are now eager to help Irish nationalist. During the **War of the Roses**, Ireland used to invade England, so the fear of an attack from Ireland comes in part from there.

Henry VIII demanded the surrender of all titles and lands (surrender and regrounds) in Ireland so he could regrant them to loyal Gaelic Chieftains who would then become **earls**. He also tries to anglicize other lands via so-called "**plantations**", settlements of non-irish people loyal to the English Crown, from **1550** to **1600**, at first especially in the South (Munster), but with time, settlers were led to the North.

But the **Earls** rebelled, especially **Hugh O'Neil**, the earl of Tyrone in the wild North. During **Nine Years**, they were at **War (1590-1600)**. **O'neil** was a capable commander so the English had to send highly expensive armies. It looked like the **Earls** were winning but O'Neil's Spanish reinforcements ended up at the wrong port. Finally, the English use famines, slash and the burning of all the crops to defeat the rebels. The conquest of Ireland was completed under **Elizabeth the 1st**. Around **1600** military elites (Irish) fled to Europe to find more troops and take back Ireland but they failed and stayed abroad: "**Flight of the Earls**". So the lands (mostly located in the North) were confiscated and it marked the end of the Gaelic elite.

"**Beyond the Pale**" is an expression meaning outside bounds of acceptable behaviour and linked to the colonization of Ireland, since the Pale was where English settlers were.

From **1600** to **1800**, Ireland was a mix of Irish people, Old English (protestants) and New English (Tudor and Stuart planters, protestants). There was a plantation system in **Londonderry/Derry** via a company (akin to the east India company).

The tensions tied to land ownership led to the **massacre of Ulster planters** in **1640**, when planters were killed by catholics. → this was immediately turned into propaganda material and a myth that catholics want to exterminate protestants. At that moment, the Irish are briefly in charge. But **Oliver Cromwell**, a puritan, feared an invasion and wanted to take revenge for the

massacre of Protestant. He modernized the army and massacred Catholics, as well as seizing lands. After that only 1/5 lands were owned by Catholics and it created more tensions.

The Catholic king **James II** is replaced by the Protestants **William and Mary**, leading to the **Battle of the Boyne in 1690**. Williams ended up winning, so the power is in the hands of a Protestant ascendancy. They seized even more land and signed new **anti-Catholics Penal Laws** between **1700 to 1800**, forbidding Catholics of weapons, land and vote.



The growing prosperity and population of a Protestant Ascendancy wants self-governance, but there is a rise **anti-British Catholic violence** around **1800**, inspired by the French and US Revolution. The Protestants see that as 1640 all over again and to defuse the threats and tension the solution seems to be the **Act Of Union of Great Britain and Ireland** in **1800**.

Religion is used to increase land ownership and strengthen the position of the Protestant minority. Catholicism is strongly tied to Irish nationalism and after being suppressed by penal laws, it causes a divide in nationalism. We distinguished 2 strains of nationalism: peaceful reform vs violent revolution.

The great famine and the Easter Rising

The **19th century** is notorious for the **Great Famine of 1845-1850**. Potatoes were the main source food for Irish peasants, they grew quickly and didn't need a lot of land, but a fungus-like infection led to a national crop failure, to 1.5 million people dying and 1.5 million people emigrating. But food was still being exported from Ireland during the Famine. At first the government wanted to act but the change in government refused to intervene stating that "the market will do it". It resulted in a tradition of emigration, a long population decline (population of

Ireland have still not recovered), a decline of the Gaelic language and a deep hatred towards Britain in parts of Ireland and in the US (migrants).

In the second half of the **19th century**, new revolutionary movements emerged with ties to the US, like the "**Irish republican Brotherhood**" and the "**fenians**", there were violent actions and violent responses by the British government. But also peaceful reform like a campaign for the so-called **Home-Rule** in Ireland and **equal land ownership** (protestant and catholic), those were led by **Charles Stewart Parnell** but it came to light that Parnell had an affair with a married woman so the Home Rule bill failed.

In **1900** Irish also saw a language and cultural revival, via the **Gaelic League**, an association which supported the language and culture, the poet **William Butler Yeats (Irish renaissance)**, the novelist **James Joyce** (more cosmopolitan), etc.

Some unionist and loyalist movements emerged in Northern Ireland (in Ulster), the Protestant movement was called the **Orange Order** (William of Orange), organized parades and had the support of the British conservatives.

There were 4 major steps during the **20th century**: **WWI**, the **Easter Rising of 1916**, Treaty and the **Troubles** from **1970 to 2000**.

During **WWI**, many Irish people cooperated with Britain, yet two new groups emerged, the **Orange Order** which established the paramilitary **Ulster Volunteer Force** and the **Gaelic league** and **IRB** which responded with the so-called **Irish Volunteers**.

→ The government was more lenient towards the UVF, at first the UV were not allowed to join the army and Britain feared a collaboration between the UV and the Germans.

The **Easter Rising of 1916** was started by the **IRA**, the **Army of the Irish republic (IRB to UV and UV to IRA)** led by **Patrick Pearse** and **Eamon de Valera**. They took control of the General Post Office in Dublin and triggered multiple fights across Dublin. There were around 500 deaths and heavy damage, but no uprising across the whole country which made many critical of this revolt, especially during WW1. Yet the Brits had a brutal response and executed many people (including Pearse) this caused anger (also in the US) even in people who were critical at first.

Ultimately, the fight for independence led to the **Anglo-Irish treaty in 1920**. 2 Home Rule governments were declared : Northern Ireland and Irish Free State. People were critical, some still wished to swear allegiance to the King and others regretted the non-united Ireland.

This is the context in which the **civil war** started in **1920**. The Irish side was split in two: the **Irish free state association**, which wanted reforms versus the **IRA**, who wanted a revolution.

The Troubles

The **Anglo-Irish treaty (1920)** created a border between the South and the North. And while the Irish Republic went its own way there was inequality and violence in the North, this eventually led to a period called **The Troubles** from **1970** to the early **2000**.

On one side, the Protestants/unionists (orange order) and the **Ulster Freedom Fighters** were afraid that they were outnumbered; they also feared that Britain would not defend them.

On the other side, Catholics nationalist were discriminated against, so people turned to the **Sinn Féin** (political party) and, the military counterpart, (vaguely connected to Sinn Féin) the **IRA** (mostly terrorists). Yet not every Catholic agreed with the IRA because they were aware of the spiral of violence, and when the **IRA** acted many victims were deplored, even Catholics.

It started in the **1960s**, during peaceful protests inspired by civil rights movements when clashes erupted. Britain sent the army which was first seen as good news by the Catholics, however the army stood with the Protestants and planned to stop the "uprising" via brutal colonial tactics. After the beginning of the Troubles, multiple terrible events occurred:

- 1) **Bloody Sunday of 1970**: unarmed protesters against "internment" were shot by the army
- 2) In **1980** prisoners went on **hunger strike** and several died, including **Bobby Sands**.
- 3) During **1970-2000** many people disappeared and bomb attacks were frequent in Ireland and the UK, for example the **Bloody Friday** (20 bombs explode at the same time in Northern Ireland)
- 4) After 9/11, the support for the **IRA** in the US declines
- 5) In **1998** the "**Good Friday Agreement**" were signs of peace even if they were interrupted (and Brexit). The **Sinn Féin** demanded amnesty for prisoners and the army off the streets. In return, the Unionists wanted the **IRAS** to hand in their weapons and embrace non-violence.

Important names are **Gerry Adams** (a nationalist) vs **Ian Paisley** (a unionist) who both had the vital support of Great Britain and the US against extremist groups. Finally a ceasefire with the **IRA** was signed and it stated a share of power between unionists and nationalists.

Divis Flats was a notorious housing project but became the youngest slum in Europe and a hot bed for terrorist activity, to the point the British installed snipers at the top, things got so tense that the British could only arrive by helicopter.

Australia

Basic info

As of today, **Australia** is part of the **Commonwealth**, which unites sovereign nations with historic ties to the British Empire and the dominions between **1900-1986**. Australia is an autonomous and equal nation but it still pledges allegiance to the English Crown. The country is really different from Great Britain, the accent, the freedom of religion, the feeling of “**mateship**”, male solidarity, equality (compared to the class divide in Britain) and the gradual political relation shift towards Asia.

Those differences lead to debates, notably around the Australian flag because Australia is independent, yet the flag is still wearing the Union Jack. New debates are wondering if modifications are needed, and if so, what modifications ? The actual flag is composed of the constellation of the Southern Cross + six pointed stars (for the 6 states) + the **Union Jack**

Australia is said to have a late start because settler colonialism based on the **terra nullius** doctrine only started in the **18th** century. But in reality, it wasn't a no-man's land since the region has a long history of human settlement by First Nations/indigenous groups (ca 60000 years).

Aboriginals vs Torres Strait islanders: diff peoples (contrast main land vs islanders)

The capital is **Canberra** and the country has multiple large cities including **Sydney** and **Melbourne** on the south east coast/east coast. The first settlements were originally in **New South Wales** which explains the localization of these cities. Australia is also one of the largest countries in the world with sizes close to Europe and the United-States, yet it only has around **25 millions people**, mostly because of the dry climate and the poor soil (hard for agriculture).

Old stories say Australia is weird, given its fauna and flora and its "uncivilized" hunter-gatherers, yet they were able to survive and use sophisticated fire stick farming .



The first fleet and Australia

Sometimes qualified as a “speedrun” to Australia. The continent was first discovered by Dutch settlers who called it “New Holland” but who decided it was a useless territory and abandoned it. Later **James Cook** “rediscovered it” and named the place **New South Wales** in **1770**. This discovery was useful to the Brits who had just lost the United States; they needed a place to ship their prisoners (mostly those who weren’t capable of paying their debt), a new source for resources and a way to expand their influence to Asia and the Pacific.

The **first fleet** arrived near “**Botany Bay**” in **1788** and established the colony of **New South Wales** (a small area around Sydney). From the start, the settlers encountered difficulties: 1) happening of Australian frontier Wars involving violent raids on settlers and guerilla campaign led by resistance fighters including a Bidjigal man, **Pemulwuy** (who will be killed ca **1800**), the fight is unequal given European have firearms and diseases 2) harsh conditions imply that the land is better for grazing sheep/cattle than crops, so settlers are very dependant on trade and import, that is why they begin to hunt seals and whales. The main source of exportation is high quality wool to GB (90% of exports).

One of the early Governors is **Lachlan Macquarie** (1810-1820, Scottish roots). Macquarie redesigned Sydney and promoted the name “Australia” for the continent. He also wanted to “civilize” Aboriginals (partially good thing since it included expanding their rights) and to reform convicts (emancipates vs exclusives).==> his legacy is fairly positive

Later debates will evoke Australia as a **penal colony** more than a **settler colony**, due to the “abandonment” of criminals there.

Farms, mines and mateship

During the early **19th** century, expeditions were realized by "**imperial heroes**" but still with the help of Aboriginal guides. The dispersal was limited, but many settler farms grew around **Sydney**, which caused much violence between the settlers and the original inhabitants of the lands. One of these acts of violence is the sadly known **Myali Creek Massacre in 1840** which was so violent that the settlers responsible for it were executed. This last fact suggests a certain protection of Aboriginal which were sadly later abandoned because of land hunger.

Around **1850** happened the first form of self governance and a significant growth of the settler society enabled by cheap convicts (cheap main d'œuvre). Yet the transportation system ends due to it being inhumane and ineffective since it leads to a high crime rate in the colony. Suddenly the cheap labour force evaporates. **After 1850**, the **gold rush** brought many immigrants, including a lot of **Chinese** people to Australia.

But at the **end of the 19th century**, there were problems and immigration declined: miners rebelled against the government and there was a growing discontent of rural poor like sheep shearers, who will go on strike because of harsh conditions, serious drought, and the declining price of wool.

The bushranger **Ned Kelly (1880)** was a figure who robbed banks, killed police officers, and used an armor made of plough. His memory led to many pop culture moments, and he is either considered like a killer or an **Australian Robin Hood**.

The **1890's** are also the start of a national legend: the Australian identity doesn't rest on cities but on the countryside, and not the green Eden but the harsh outback. "**Mateship**" is what unites people in the harsh outbacks of Australia, people are not polished but they help each other.

However, this is really a myth for a mundane audience, but it was influential in pop culture (Crocodile Dundee; picnic at hanging rock).

Waltzing Matilda and World Wars

The tensions of the **late 19th century** lead to bush ballads and "**Waltzing Matilda**", the unofficial national anthems, which also put to light the theme of the outback. A real anecdote behind the song is tied to shearer strikes.

The speaker of the song is traveling on foot with his belongings in a bag, he captures and eats sheep, but the police accuses him of theft, so he jumps in **billabong** and since then, his ghost supposedly haunts the lake.

In **1900** a constitution was formed and Australia gained a dominion status, yet there are external and internal tensions.

The external tensions are linked to the fear of rising Asia, especially **Japan**. The internal ones are related to people stressing "Australia for (white) Australians" via the contrast **South** (which is white, urban and exports many goods)) and **North** (harsh, rural and multiracial). Racist ideas are pushed that the Aboriginal population is "incapable of autonomy" so the government controls their lives by "protection boards" and by placing the children in "schools".

During WWI Australian food will be really important. In addition, Australian troops and New Zealand (**ANZAC**= Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) are deployed in the middle of the east to secure the **Gallipoli peninsula**. They eventually have to withdraw but the legend of their sacrifice and the resistance of the "mateship" stay part of the myth (**Anzac day**)

WWII brings tensions with GB because the metropolis keeps a mindset of "beat hitler, worry pacific later". The clashes with Japan also caused fear of an invasion, the **Japanese** will eventually air raid on **Darwin**, and multiple fights occurred in **Papua New Guinea** so Australia shifted from GB to **US** to find support. A vile idea of the "**yellow Peril**" also starts to spread (bad asians are dangerous to the West).

Australia today

After WW2, Australia benefited from a new economic growth, also because of a trade treaty with Asia (especially with Japan) and the creation of a new mining concession and, thus, a mineral boom (new mines).

Sydney Opera House was built in **1970**, it had its bunch of criticism yet it is the symbol of a modern city and of wealth.

This growth is good news yet Australians only export a narrow range of goods (wool>gold>coal), they are of great quality but limited.

After WW2 the forced assimilation of indigenous Australians was abandoned (stealing children, disrupting community and language), we call the victims of this mistreatment the **stolen Generations (1900-1970)**. The country even started to celebrate indigenous .

In **1990**, there was a campaign for aboriginal land rights vs existing farms and new mines, this led to the "**Mabo judgement**" of **1990** in which judges reject the principle of **terra nullius** and criticize the nation's "legacy of shame". A (failed) referendum about 'indigenous Voice' reform happened.

Today, we saw recent calls to reorient Australia towards Asia because of geopolitics, the South China Sea appears an interesting way for trade and even in the US, there is a "**Pivot to Asia**" in the economy and military strategy they also have in place the **AUKUS** alliance (submarines between Australia, UK, US however, Donald is not fan). An economic reason for this shift towards Asia is the Australian growth via **China's** demand for energy and metals (50% goes to China).

In more recent problems, we saw the notorious "**Pacific Solution**" to the migration crisis, which consists of putting migrants on islands including **Nauru**.

The **Black Summer of 2019 and 2020** was a series of droughts and fires that resulted from the weather conditions and climate crisis, but, ironically, Australia is partly responsible for this climate crisis given their many mines.

Canada

The creation of Canada

There are many stereotypes about nature, climate, wilderness, hockey, beaver linked to Canada. The country was colonised and founded by the **British empire**. But indigenous Peoples have lived on the landmass of North America or **Turtle Island** since Time Immemorial (before memory). There were thousands of distinct cultural groups with over **300 languages**. They had complex, often democratic, systems of government and alliances. In Canada, the term Indigenous is used to refer to **First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples**.

Beginning of colonisation

Vikings arrived during the **10th century** but their settlements did not last and we don't know if it's because it was temporary or if they died.

Later, **England** and **France** thought they were going to **Asia**; a land known for its wealth and treasure. **John Cabot** was commissioned by the king of England to find the Northwest Passage to Asia but instead, arrived in **New Foundland** around **1500** and claimed it for the king.

The settlements only began during the **17th century**, when the **English** came back to convert the people to christianity and validate the Crown's claim to the land (because it was decided that you could claim it if you turn the people in the name of god), this was also caused by economic opportunities like fishing.

The colonisation was encouraged by the **Doctrine of Discovery** and the concept of **Terra Nullius**, a set of European international legal principles (15th/16th centuries) that allowed Europeans to claim land “not possessed by any other Christian Prince”.

New France (1600-1760)

Jacques Cartier was sent by France to find “gold and other treasure” and the Northwest Passage and he completed three voyages to the New World between **1535** and **1545**. He was the first European to map and venture on the river he would later call the **Saint Laurent**. He apparently heard people saying "**kanata**" (village in Iroquois) and decided to name his map Canada.

Samuel de Champlain, founder of new France, established the first settlement in **Port Royal Acadia (1600)**, now known as **Quebec city**, in the first winter only 8 of the 28 settlers survived. But new people came and the settlement marked the establishment by **Champlain** of the fur trade; Europeans wanted fancy hats made of fur such as **beaver fur**. But at that time the Europeans were dependent on the **first nations** people who were the only ones to know the land and could travel in it. The relationships between first nations and colonizers were at first, peaceful.

The lives of those Indigenous people, at first based on hunting and gathering, changed drastically to develop into a trading economy. The Europeans also brought foreign diseases that could have killed up to **90%** of the Indigenous populations (for example, smallpox).

Champlain formed alliances, most notably with the **Huron-Wendat** people. This alliance implied the **huron-wendat** would only trade with **New France**. In return, new France fought alongside the **Huron Wendat** against the **Haudenosaunee** People in the **Beavers Wars**. This was a period of violent conflict spanning roughly **150 years** but Europeans and their firearms definitely changed the warfare on Turtle Island.

The **Company of a 100 man** (20-30 years of existence) was supposed to export goods from Canada, but it failed so almost all the traffic happened between France and the settlement. At some point, beavers started going extinct so the settlers went more west and more north. Two men went out of **Champlain** directive to discover a place with many beavers but, because of the disobedience, they were sent back to France. They decided to then go to the **British king**.

Hbc and Métis nation

The British king gave his blessing to the creation of a new company. In **1670**, with the signature of a decree, the **Hudson's Bay Company** was granted a charter allowing "the sole trade of commerce" of the entire **Hudson's Bay** drainage basin. It prohibited people from entering the "hudson's bay company area" and the first nations to go out of the area to trade with others. The area was renamed **Rupert's Land** and the charter fully ignored the people living in that region to allow the **Hudson Bay Company** to completely dominate the fur trade.

Beaver pelts were traded by natives for blankets, textiles, metal, tools and guns at trading posts. The fur trade was the main economic driver in what would become **Canada** from the **17th to 19th**.

The trade also created a distinct new cultural and ethnogroup, known as the **Métis** people who can trace back their ancestry to the European colonial men who married or formed unions with women of the first nations. Their culture is distinct from that of their indigenous mothers and European fathers. More than "mixed", their name meant a collective history and specific cultural identity.

Many of those **Métis** men were employed by the **HBC** as trappers or Voyageurs. The pratique of "voyageur" appeared when the fur trade expanded, they were who would travel from the first nations to the trade posts of the **Hudson's Bay Company**.

From **1500** to the **19th century**, Canada was not a country but a bunch of colonies.

A Constitution in 3 acts

During the **Seven Year War**, France was losing its power in the New World and officially ceded their land to the British. This led to the **Constitutional act (Canada act) in 1790**. It was a British parliamentary act dividing Canada in two (**Upper Canada**, near the US border, French speaking; **Lower Canada** north, down the river and English speaking). The British didn't want to follow French culture so the separation of the two regions appeared like the solution.

Around that time, the British King also issued a Royal Proclamation recognising the rights of Aboriginal Title and undermining the concept of Terra Nullius. On paper, settlers couldn't take indigenous' lands anymore. This wasn't respected in practice, but this proclamation opened the door to treaties and legal understanding of Indigenous land rights.

Around **1870**, with the **Constitution Act (British North America Act)**, the **Dominion** of Canada was formed. Because at that time the US got independence and the British wanted to still have power and avoid a second uprising, so they gave their own authority while still having power. This created a united federal government and new provinces **Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick**. Over the next 100 years provinces were added to finally form the map we have today. The **final constitution act of 1980**, gave Canada the right to sovereign control over the constitution and they signed the charter of rights and freedoms and recognition of First Nations rights were added.



Moving West to Manitoba

At that point, the Brits were focused on the east. The Hudson's Bay company still possessed the **Rupert's Land**. From **1869 to 1870** happened the **Red River Resistance**, it was a movement of the **Métis** people of the **Red River colony (Manitoba)** led by **Louis Riel** aimed at stopping the HBC to sell and transfer Rupert's land to the **Dominion** of Canada. The Métis declared a provisional government to negotiate terms for entering Confederation, which led to the creation of the province of **Manitoba**. However, even though Métis land and cultural rights were supposed to be respected, Canada set their own government in the province and **Louis Riel** was hanged after leading another rebellion further west .

This resistance did not bring a flourishing homeland for the **Métis** people but it influenced the creation of Treaties between the Canadian government and other First Nations and the destabilisation of the precept of Terra Nullius . The treaties were often made under coercion, and the first nations didn't understand what they were forced to sign.



Moving west to British Columbia.

In the **19th century** there were not many settlers, but many indigenous. The French, who were kicked out by the English, decided to move west and shift from the fur trade to logging, mining and farming.

Around 1860, the **Gold Rush** in the Colony of **British Columbia** began and people from all over the world came with the hopes of getting rich.

The **Canadian** government was scared of the **Americans** taking **British Columbia**, especially because they had just bought **Alaska**. So the Canadian decided to advertise to black people who were now free to come to Canada, thinking that if they had black people american wouldn't come. The Canadian government quickly agreed to **British Columbia's** demands notably a rail road. Technically, British Columbia signed no treaties with the First Nations, meaning the land was never given or sold to Canada.

The Canadian Pacific Railway

This railroad goes all the way from **Montreal to Vancouver**. It was built in **1880** to connect the new province and it was mainly built by **Chinese** migrant workers. Due to dangerous conditions, many of these men died and those who survived were denied citizenship. The railroad, while now primarily used for cargo, is still a source of Canadian pride. There is an interesting history of hotels on the side of the railroad.

There was a racist policy against the **Chinese** specifically (but also many others), it was a head tax for people bringing their family from China, with prices so expensive it was almost impossible for those workers. But it didn't work so they outlawed Chinese people. They wanted to colonize the place with what they called "the right kind of people".

There were many conflicts with natives because the railroad was crossing their land. It started the bad relation between governments and indigenous. And this relation continued, for example with the existence of **residential schools** from **1830** with the last one closing in **1997**. All indigenous groups targeted, government officers were taking children from their home to send them to those schools where they couldn't speak their languages or participate in their cultural practices, with the slogan "kill the indians save a child". In recent years mass graves of children have been uncovered in the area near these residential schools. Those schools were ruled by the government, catholic churches and sometimes protestant churches. **The Truth and Reconciliation Commission** was established to address and navigate the reparations, the trauma of over **150 years** of this cultural genocide remains. **Residential schools** were a systematic, government-sponsored attempt to destroy Indigenous cultures and languages and to assimilate Indigenous peoples so that they no longer existed as distinct people.

Canada today

Canada is still developing today. Threats from **Donald Trump** resurfaced the old fear of annexation and some provinces, like Alberta seem kind of on board. The effects of climate change due to the oil extraction also make themselves clear during this century. The country is seen as multicultural and as a wild nation but those stereotypes are not entirely true, especially with the **pipeline project**, crossing native lands and destroying the environment. As of this spring, the **HBC** filed for bankruptcy after being bought by an American

Empire and slavery

The British Empire

The British empire was large, famous but most surely controversial. Studies showed that Britain is more nostalgic than other ex-empire; roughly 30% say they are "proud" of the empire and roughly 30% are certain that the empire had a positive impact.

History usually distinguishes between different phases:

- 1) The "**First empire**", based settler colonialism in US colonies, along East Coast and on the sugar plantation colonies in the West Indies (Barbados, Jamaica)
- 2) After the loss of the American colonies, the so-called "**Second Empire**" in which the attention shifted from the West to the East, and GB takes control of mainland India

- 3) In later developments, the "**imperial century**" starts between **1815** to **1914**, it is marked by the pax Britannica after Napoleon's death, taking control of the world, and the development of "dominions" in Australia/Canada/...



Multiple reasons caused the end of this empire.

- Dominions gained more autonomy
- After WWII, Britain had to rebuild and the US became the dominant power from now on (via the Suez crises)
- The rise of anti-colonial movements , and the independence of India in 1947

The creation of the commonwealth, a voluntary group of sovereign nations, part of the British Empire

Ireland is part of this story of colonialism and racism too. It was the 1st colony of England and the testing ground for imperialism tactics.

Black and British

"Black and British" is a book by **David Olusoga** that talks about a difficult yet necessary conversation. This is proven by the **Black Lives Matter** protests and the call to reform university curriculum to include the more dark aspects of Britain's history.

The book tackles the excuse of “slavery existed in other times and countries”. This excuse has a goal of demeaning the particular and horrible system that was the slavery during the Empire. The transatlantic slavery system was incredibly brutal, on an industrial scale and there was no way out for these slaves or their children. Those atrocities were not fully visible in Britain, it was almost fully happening out of sight.

People who claim that "black and british" is a contradiction are limiting this story both in time and space. In terms of sense, it is limiting it to cities, and especially port cities (**London, Bristol, Liverpool, ...**). In terms of time, it is limiting it to the postwar period and the **windrush** generation.

Yet there are a wide range of Black and British characters throughout history. The restoration of these figures to visibility shows that they are not new, nor out of place.

This cultural invisibility is not a coincidence, it is linked to the denial of Black British history and is not just a consequence of racism but a deep feature of it.

Enoch Powell, a conservationist and anti-immigration politician from the **60's** claimed that having the greatest empire in the world has had no effect at all on England and to be British, which for him is to be white (**Rivers of Blood speech**)

A wide range of Black and British characters existed throughout history :

- Around **200-300**: a Roman garrison near the **Hadrian's wall** in the North of England included a unit of **Aurelian Moors** from the north of Africa
- Around **200-300**: the **Ivory Bangle Lady** was a high-status citizen in Roman England and a mixed-race woman of North African descent

There was considerable mobility when Britain was part of the Roman empire but this mobility was interrupted because of the **fall of Rome** and the rise of **Islam**. But in medieval Britain, there were still people of African heritage, including in biblical or classical texts.

International traffic restored this link around **1450** via **Portuguese** traders who navigated the difficult shoreline of Africa. They installed the first trading posts for the gold of **Ghana**, not slaves. At that time, an **edict of the Pope** stated that "only Portugal had trading rights with Africa". The obstacle of **papal bull** was removed when **Henry VIII** was excommunicated and the Portuguese success inspired English Merchants around **1550**

English were not all-powerful colonizers at first but just traders, compared to the strong African kingdoms, the difficult shoreline and the tropical diseases.

John Hawkins was the pioneer of the **English triangular slave trade (1550)**. He sailed from **Africa** to the **New World**, sold slaves, and returned to **England** where he made profits via goods and the money of slaves. They were not the first country to trade slaves and have **New World** slave

colonies, **Spain** and **Portugal** had done it before. This project was interrupted after a disastrous expedition in which the **British** were defeated by the **Spanish** .

As Europeans were trading the African population, the mythical view of Africa was not abandoned, especially the view induced by the **bible**:

Noah had 3 sons, the fathers of the 3 human races (on the "3 continents"). **Japhet** = Europe; **Sem**= Asia, **Ham**=Africa. One day Ham misbehaved (got drunk and laid naked in his tent), so Noah curses his son and descendants : "they'll be servants from now on" ⇒ later interpretations: "black skin to mark this curse" and that created a pretext for racist abuse, as if black skin=life of endless servitude.

The **Black Tudors** were people of African descent located mainly in London and port cities. Many arrived via the **Mediterranean sea** and the **Iberian peninsula**. They were domestics and servants but not slaves, and at this period some slaves were white. Those **black Tudors** were present in the international court culture of the Renaissance.

John Blake was the first black person in Britain with a name in records and an image too (an illustration of festivities linked to birth of son of **Henry VIII**). This figure was present at important events as a respected Black musician.

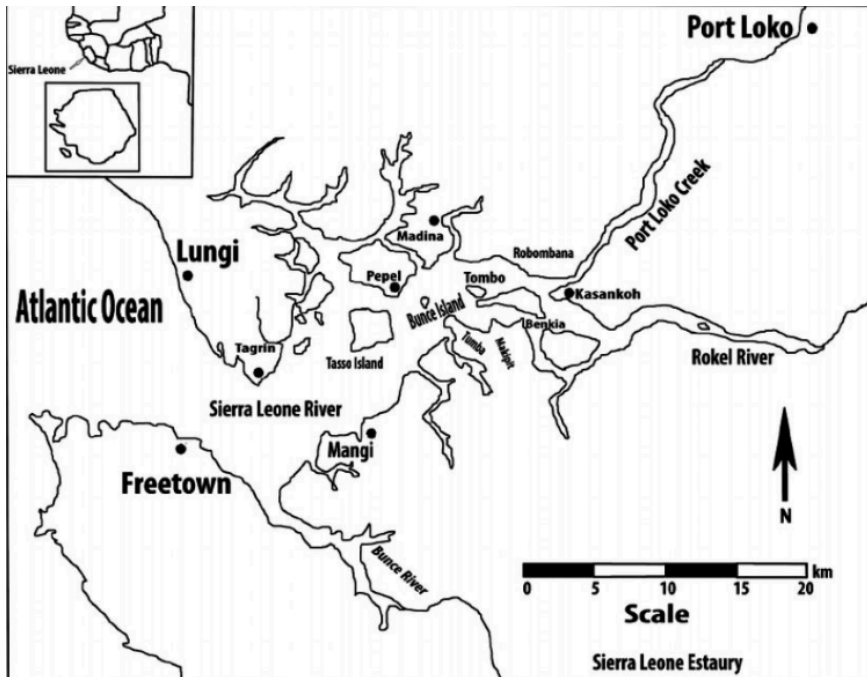
But this period had racism too ? There was an order of the **Privy Council** supported by Elizabeth I to "remove black people". Yet, this was a reaction to angry merchants, and since they required the permission of their masters to export the black population, the plan to deport Black Tudors was doomed from the start.



Slavery, Sierra Leone and abolition

Before **1600**, there was no colonies in the **New Worlds**, and it represented only a minor part in the slave trade. But the English followed Spain and started colonies in the **Eastern Caribbeans**. At the same time they learned that sugar was very profitable but required a lot of labor. They first used white indentured servants but those people were free after 10 years and often died of **malaria**.

So planters turned towards malaria-hardened slaves of the **West Coast of Africa**. They tried to avoid solidarity and worker revolt by focusing less on the rich/poor contrast and more on the black/white contrast via the **Barbados Slave Code** around **1660**. Which described "white as servants and Black as slaves. This was the model for the new colony of **Jamaica** and the **North American English colonies**. The idea was no longer to attack treasure fleets. The English turned to **Sierra Leone** to bring back slaves to the New world.



Bunce Island was called "the Pompeii of the slave trade". Around **1660** was created the **Royal African Company**, led by the future **king James II** who rewarded the people loyal to the **Stuarts**. It later explained the great wealth of **Bristol**, **Glasgow** and **Liverpool**. West Indians settlers and plantations' owners also immensely profited from this system. But this incredible wealth had an incredible human toll via the "**Middle Passage**" (2million deaths) and a disgusting amount of people working to death as its other face of the coin.

Edward Godson was a "philanthropist" sponsoring hospitals and schools, via the money owned by the slave trade. In recent years, monuments celebrating him were vandalized and there were multiple calls to desempower this figure.

After some time, they had stolen so many people that they had to travel hundreds of miles inland to find people to export.

Some Africans also lived as slaves in Britain between **1650 to 1807**. It was a sort of fashion among rich people to have a black page boys, like an exotic accessory/luxury. They were threatened of being sold to West Indian planters and at that time there was a 'fear of ship, not whip'.

Yet in Britain, not every Black person was a slave, in contrast to the plantations.

1. Since black folks worked and lived alongside white servants, they were closer to servants
2. There was vicious pro-slavery stereotypes yet inter-racial marriages were possible

3. Some were educated: the literacy of servants was useful, but also a potential for advancement

→ **Phyllis Wheatley** (not original name; Wheatley is the 'owners' name and Phyllis the name of the ship) mastered English and started to write poetry

There were no laws in England that recognized slavery and later, legal rulings implied that slaves were free if they were in England but planters resisted : “colonies are our properties, not England”. A lot of abductions of free black people happened at the time, so the philanthropist **Granville Sharp** forced a definitive ruling on legality. Around **1770**, **Lord Mansfield** decided that it was illegal to deport slaves from England and that slavery was officially not recognized in England.

Slave owners were furious. In **North America** there were 500.000 slaves on **tobacco plantations** . **Mansfield's** judgement interfered with the laws and "freedom" of colonies, and when the US revolted, the British governor tried to crush this revolt by engaging Black people, promising them freedom if they helped Britain. Ultimately this was an act for strategic rather than moral reasons.

The last crushing defeat happened at **Yorktown around 1750**. After came the question of what to do with **Black loyalists**, the black slaves who were fighting with the British.

Some were taken to the UK where they lived poorly. There were calls for humanitarian help but also many racist responses. Finally a proposal to resettle this group in an "**African Eden**" in **Sierra Leone**. **Granville** was involved in the creation of "**Granville Town**" later called **Freetown**, **Granville** allowed the, now free, survivant of the slave trade to produce ethical sugar. Yet, this "**Province of freedom**" was close to **Bunce Island** aka "**slavery highway**".

The British slave trade between **1650** and **1807** was making a lot profit and saw racist propaganda. Yet in **1780** the horrors of the **Middle Passage** were exposed in the continent by the **Zong affair**. → in a slave ship, they started fearing they would run out of water, it had not happened yet. In a weird anticipation, the traders decided to throw the slaves overboard, since they “were insured anyway”. They arrived at the port with more than enough water. Popular autobiographies written by former slaves, like **Olaudah Equiano**, also helped to expose the propaganda. Rose the so-called **abolitionist movement** which was followed by petitions and boycotts.

The **Haitian Revolution** caused fear. Yet **William Wilberforce** (MP) succeeded in **outlawing the slave trade** in **1807**, this move was supported by most of the population. But new tensions arrived

among abolitionists: should the shift be gradual or immediate ? But a violent response to a **Jamaican Slave Revolt** in the **1830s** united people to finally end British slavery in **1838**.

There was a weird transitional moment between the abolition in **1833** and when the slaves became unpaid servants. Also the government, despite the new law, compensated owners for their "loss of property". It is also important to not overlook the critical role of women and Rebels/abolitionists.

Finally, we distinguish three waves to the abolition movement. The first one when people were against the slave trade, then secondly against British slavery, and finally against slavery as a whole.

There was a clear shift. Slave ships were at first protected by the **Royal Navy** and they had now turned into anti-slavery patrols of the **West Africa Squadron** as a "humanitarian intervention". It was celebrated at the time, yet they had limited funding/ships and they sometimes (often) failed to protect freed slaves and, at the end, only liberated a very small number of people over the course of 3 decades.

If the anti-slavery campaign led to a significant loss of profits for salvers, France, the US, Spain and Portugal still did not abandon the slave trade.

Racism, Jamaica and empire

There were many positive developments, but this was not a linear evolution towards equality.

1. **Harriet Beecher Stowe's** book ***Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1850)** was sent to Queen Victoria and became a global bestseller but the empathy for slaves is not the same as believing in racial equality
2. Victorian Britain was dependent on raw materials imported from US and its **Cotton kingdom** in the **Deep South** - which was tied to **Cottonopolis** of **Manchester** - so UK manufacturers supported the South and the US planters during the **civil war in 1860**
3. The UK was infiltrated by US prejudice via the rise of **pseudo-scientific** racial theories that abused the views of **Charles Darwin** to attack on the "naive Christian sentiment" of abolitionists: for them "black people are unfit to rule themselves".

Change can be seen in response to the new conflict in **Jamaica** where slavery had been abolished but the power was still in the hands of white elite and the former slaves were still poor. In this context, a minor event escalated into the **Morant bay Rebellion of 1865** and a paranoid fear again fueled a brutal response from white people.

More than equality, economy and pseudo-sciences, there was also a gradual shift towards a new mode of imperialism.

The British policy along the West coast of Africa shifted to a goal of "civilizing" Africa by opening the interior of the continent to "legitimate trade". They now abused the moral victory of anti-slavery crusade to take control of Africa.

The **Berlin Conference of 1884** and the so-called "**Scramble for Africa**" is a proof of that. The coastline of West Africa was familiar yet the continent itself was largely unknown. But after the conference where Europeans divided Africa between themselves, it only took a few decades for it to be 90% under European control, and Britain played a huge part. Suddenly, 1 out of 3 people in Africa was part of the British Empire.

This new imperialism was made possible by

- 1) the invention of shallow steamboats (for rivers)
- 2) medical knowledge to cure tropical disease
- 3) machine guns, useful against large groups

And all of this supported by patriotic journalism painting "national heroes civilizing africa", and the pseudo-sciences (against mixed, interracial marriages) .

Global war and the Windrush

During **WWI**, African/West Indian colonies were enthusiastic to "serve" Britain. Yet, there were debates about the use of these soldiers on the Western Front, as it might later have undermined white rule in colonies. After the war the role of these volunteers was minimized. The competition for work led to riots in Glasgow, London, Liverpool and there were racist attacks on mixed marriages in the name of "purity".

After **WWII**, the postwar labour shortage led to the **British Nationality Act around 1950**, which states the right to enter and settle in Britain for members of colonies. Obviously, this was designed for white citizens of Australia or Canada, they did not intend to "invite" black people of the empire.

But at the same time, a serious hurricane in **Jamaica** and the new restrictions on migration in the US caused people from **Jamaica** and the **Caribbean** to move to the UK on board of the **Windrush**. Around 500 people arrived from the **West Indies** . They were welcomed by racist attacks and British politicians attempted to limit this non-white immigration, yet they had to do it without

antagonizing some parts of the commonwealth. And then the **national act** ended and the **Immigration Acts**, all around **1970**.

The "**Windrush**" is a positive story yet this myth implies that black people are only a post war thing. In addition, in **2018** the **Windrush Scandal** when people who had arrived legally before **1970** were threatened with deportation.

Empire and India

The mountain of light or the **Koh-I-Noor** diamond became the Star of the British Crown Jewels, it was once attached on the **peacock throne** of the **Mughal empire**.

Also, the English language shows influence of Germanic/romance languages but has also imported many words from India like punch, shawl, pyjamas, sandals, bungalow, shampoo, veranda, **loot**, **mogul**, bazaar, jungle, teak.

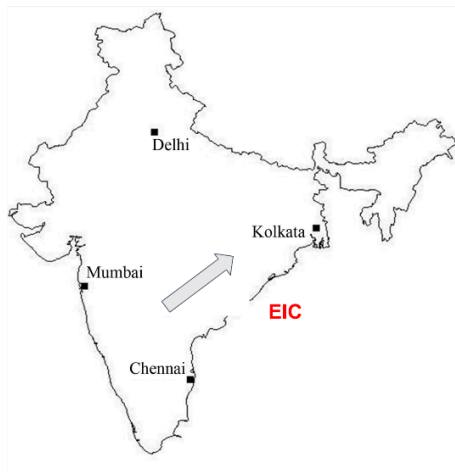
Loot: after winning a combat, taking everything from the enemy

Mogul: an important (media) person who is rich/powerful

It comes from the dominant power in India when Britain arrives, the **Mughal**

The British Empire has three stages: the second stage is when the attention shift to the West

India and the East India Company



India is a very large and complex country, with an even more complex history. It has 1.4 billion people which is more than Europe and the United-States combined (only 780million). It is home to many cities such as **Kolkata** (Calcutta), **Delhi** and **New Delhi**, **Mumbai** (Bombay), **Chennai** (Madras).

Indian history and culture is linked to many events, some deeply traumatic for the population and rooted in colonialism.

- The **Amritsar Massacre in 1919** was a brutal military response to peaceful protest linked to the independence movement; it resulted in +-1000 casualties .
- **Bengal Famine during WWII**: 3 million people died, it was blamed on drought and Japan yet British politicians (like **Churchill**) were (co-)responsible for destroying the boats and

rice to avoid a seizure from **Japan** and to export food to the European armies and citizens of **Great Britain**.

- The **independence and partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947**: the **Hindus** in **India** were separated from the **Muslims** in **Pakistan** and **Bangladesh** despite calls for unity by **Gandhi**.
- Rise of **Bollywood** (in **Mumbai/Bombay**) during the postwar period: in total, Bollywood has more movies and tickets sold than Hollywood, masala movies (mix of genres) are really popular.
- **India** is armed with nuclear weapons and has tensions with **Pakistan** who also has nuclear weapons. This is a dangerous situation, given the conflict over Kashmir region and the many drought of the region.

India was part of the British Empire but it was not like that from the start. Often, empires don't start directly as nation/civilization but start with corporate looting by companies, in this case, the **East India Company from 1600 to 1860**, Some companies are linked to the English Crown, like the **Royal African Company**, but that was not the case for the **East India Company**.

EIC was a multinational corporation with a private army that became an aggressive colonial power, invented corporate **lobbying** (aka corruption) and had to be bailed out several times by the British government.

- Many **Members of parliaments** had invested in stocks of **EIC**, so they weren't criticizing the company
- At some point, the **EIC** was responsible for ½ of the British Trade, and its army was 2x the size of the British army
- It had a lasting impact on the growth of London docks and the stock exchange importance
⇒ quite like if Elon Musk had a private army

In the **15th century**, England was a poor agricultural country at war with itself over religion; pirates were raiding ships of **Spain** and **Portugal**. There was the **Levant Company** which traded spice from Asia via the **Ottoman Empire**. At some point, they didn't want to trade via the Ottoman Empire anymore, so they created a new "**joint stock company**"(type of business: you pool funds to raise large sums and share the risks between investors) to buy spices in the East.



The only problem was the **Dutch** counterpart who were already present in Spice Island, so the Brits decided to go to India instead. At that time, India was clearly more important than England, it had a larger army, larger population, and was very rich under the **Mughal** empire.

On a miniature we see the emperor **Jahangir** on a pedestal compared to **King James**, small and at the feet of the emperor.

The Mughal Empire and the Great Anarchy

The **Mughal Empire** was powerful and already trading with Europe in many ways like Jewels (diamonds), textiles and gunpowder. Europeans already had trading stations along the coast, the British had some bases in **Bombay** and **Madras**. But there were tensions due to the **Mughals** defeating **Portuguese** and **English** when they were misbehaving. So the English decided to move to **Calcutta**.

Around 1700, a series of poor decisions from the **Mughal Emperors** created the "**great anarchy**", this was the beginning of the disintegration of the Mughal Empire.

- 1) Rebellions after the pro-muslim policies of **Aurangzeb** (vs Hindu/sikhs) ⇒ the emperor became increasingly religious and started to prefer muslims and discriminate against the **Hindu** and **Sikhs** populations (80% of population), he even tortured important **Sikhs**. This broke the "unity" of the different ethnic groups in the Indias.
- 2) Due to those policies, multiple regions of India stopped paying taxes which led to the lack of funding for the large army of the country.
- 3) There were succession disputes among the **Mughals**, 4 emperors succeeded each other in only 1 year.
- 4) The **Persians (Nadasha)** invaded the Mughal Empire and sacked **Delhi**, the loot would be worth around 9 billions today (including the peacock throne and the **Koh-I-Noor diamond**)

As a result, the **Marathas** (Hindus) began to take control in the west of India. And the central power of the emperor shifted to local governors, called "**Nawabs**".

The disintegration of the **Mughals** by **Nadasha** and the Persians made the Europeans dream of conquest. They now had the military advantage, the traditional Indian armies were still using cavalry that were not matched to the new guns, artillery and the well-organized infantry. The

French ,and later the English, would recruit and train local "**sepoys**", which were Indian Indian infantry fighting on behalf of Europeans and the **EIC**.

Calcutta and the Nawabs of Bengal

The British created a new trading station in **Calcutta**, where the governor, the **Nawab of Bengal** is most important. **Bengal** is also the richest province. However, the **French** are making multiple moves, such as taking the trading post of **Madras** and the Brits fear they will turn to **Calcutta**. So the **EIC** decides to upgrade its local defenses against the will of the **Nawab**. Reinforcements led by **Robert Clive** are sent from London to India.

At first this seems like a mistake, since the **Nawab** decides to attack and loot **Calcutta**. This led to the **Black Hole of Calcutta around 1760**, when British prisoners of war from a British fort suffocated in cramped rooms. It was a horrible event but the story was later inflated and turned into the myth of "Indian Barbarity".

But **Robert Clive** fought back and retake control of **Calcutta**. He throws out the Nawab and secures the support of Indian Bankers who want to do trade, those families will provide funds. He pushes on; he destroys the main French trading post near **Calcutta** and also destroys the **Nawab of Bengal** during the **Battle of Plassey around 1760**.

As a result, the **East India Company** became the dominant political and military force in the region. The population was paying massive amounts and taxes to **EIC**, **Bengal** was impoverished but **Clive** was increasingly rich.

⇒ An example of that is **Powis Castle**, Robert Clive's son's castle in which there are more objects from the **Mughal** than the national museum of India.

The **EIC** taking control of **Bengal** and draining this rich region of its money was only the first step.

In India, the bankers are nostalgic and regret the peace of **Mughals**. At the same time, there is a new **Nawab of Bengal** who wishes to limit the power of the **EIC** to **Calcutta**. Those bankers and the Nawab make an alliance with the **Mughal Emperor Shah Alam**, even though the Mughal don't have the main power anymore. They assemble a huge force but they are crushed by a small **EIC** army in the **Battle of Buxar around 1760**.

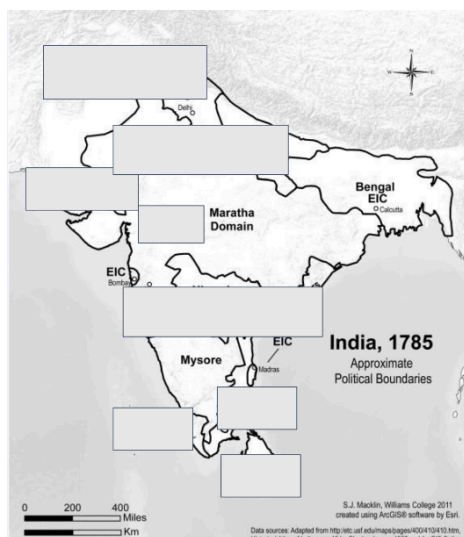
The **EIC** decides to keep **Shah Alam** as an ally and get the title of "**Diwani**" in the **Treaty of Allahabad**. A **Diwani** is a government official in charge of revenue and has the right to manage and collect revenue from a particular region. Basically, the **EIC** becomes the **Nawab** and treats the **North** and **North East of India** like a vast plantation.

At some point, there was no rain for 2 years, and the **EIC** refused to help the starving population. The lack of famine relief policies led to the horrible **Bengal Famine of 1770**. 1 in 5 people died, the desperate people sold their children, and the living had no choice but to eat the dead. The famine provoked indignation in Great Britain and the **EIC** and **Clive** were accused of near-genocide, at the end **Robert Clive** ended up killing himself.

The government considered the project of the **EIC** too big to fail, in addition, the MPs owned stocks in the company. So they found a compromise via the **Regulating Act in 1773** which stated that the EIC had to listen to the Government. As the **EIC** grows in India, the control of the British government increases

A new governor is sent, **Warren Hastings**. He seemed to have a genuine love for India and was considered way more responsible. He took measures to avoid famine but he often disagreed with the council about the direction of India.

Beyond Bengal: Mughal, Maratha, Mysore



Around **1780**, there were tensions between the governor and the council, the enemies of the **EIC** took notes.

- 1) **Shah Alam** is mistreated by the EIC who doesn't pay him the right amount and refuse to help him return to **Delhi**, so he turns to the **Marathas** in West/Center
- 2) The **Marathas** manage to defeat the **EIC** in a battle and this expose the limits of the company's power as well as their ambitions to reshape India as a whole
- 3) **Mysore**, in the south, challenges the **EIC** too and it's there that the worst defeat of the EIC happens, in the **Battle of Pollilur** (near Madras) in **1780**

These different groups begin to form alliances to counter the too ambitious EIC. And the military advantage of the Brits wanes as the other groups get rifles, artillery and infantry via the French.

In London, people are seriously fearing possible problems, especially after the **war of Independence in the US**, which was partly provoked by the new monopoly of the **EIC** on tea trade in the US. There are new attacks on the **EIC** and **Hastings**, people realize they are looting and not trading, and at this period, the concept of human rights becomes universal. While this is true, **Hastings** still tried to begin with reform for worst abuses but he was stopped by the tensions with the council.

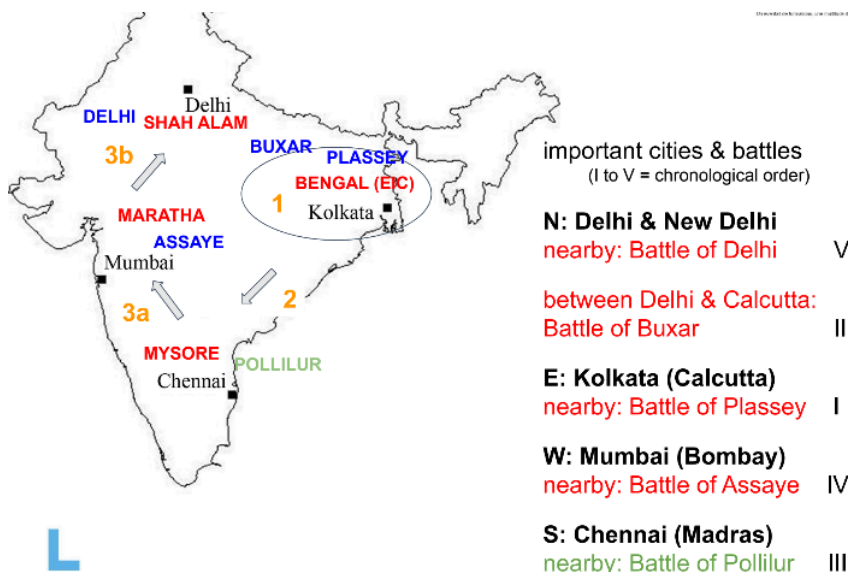
The **East India company** seems in serious trouble. But **Bengal** is still a rich province and the East India Company is still insanely rich via the tea trade, they also profit from the sale of **Chinese tea**.

⇒ Tea became very popular in Britain in the **second half of 18th century**, at the right moment when the **EIC** needed the money, they bought Chinese Tea via sale of **Opium** produced in India (and later tea). This will lead to war with China.

So **EIC** became, again, the wealthiest and they were able to build the most powerful army in Asia. In **1800**, two new ambitious governors arrived to India, two brothers: the **Wellesleys** (including **Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington** who would later defeat Napoleon in Waterloo 1815). The **Wellesleys** will expand beyond **Bengal** and ultimately seize the rest of India.

- In the south, the population is seen as savage barbarian and with their ruler, **Tipu sultan of Mysore**, they are not liked by the British. But **Tipu Sultan** entered into an alliance with Napoleon. The French sent help but their fleet was destroyed. The EIC formed an alliance with other Indian rulers against the violent "**Tiger of Mysore**". This ruler created a high tech fortress with help of a French architect but sadly this fortress was looted and **Tipu sultan, Tiger of Mysore**, was defeated in **1800**.
- Meanwhile, in the **North**, **Shah Alam** returns to **Delhi** and with the help of the **Marathas** he tries to rebuild the **Mughal Empire**. But there's a conflict with the **Nawab** from the **North** and he is left undefended by the **Marathas**. **Shah Alam** is defeated by the Nawab. During this all the aristocrats are killed and Shah Alam barely survives, he is blind, has no money and no power.
- In the West and center only **Marathas** are left as a challenge but the **EIC** reaches to their former ally **Shah Alam** and wins victories against the **Marathas**
 - In the west near **Bombay** during the **battle of Assaye, 1800**

→ In the north near **Delhi** during the **battle of Delhi, 1800**, which was the final fight in India against the French officers.



The Great Uprising and the Raj

This marks the end of the "great anarchy" and a total victory for the **EIC** between **1760 to 1800**: from now on **Calcutta/Bengal, Madras** and **Bombay** are linked into one continuous whole. At first, there was no response from London because the army was focused on Napoleon, but the territory that they now had power over is way larger than the US colonies.

The alliance was a smart move because it gave the appearance of legitimacy via the connection between the **EIC** and **Shah Alam**, but also an impression that the **Wellesley** did not wish to "place the EIC on the throne of the Mughals" but that was exactly what had happened in less than fifty years: the EIC was now truly "the grandest society of merchants in the universe"

But, there were troubles:

The company was incredibly powerful, and the Brits started thinking that this was quite dangerous, it was not only dangerous for other countries but also for Britain itself. They want more regulation.

This became even more obvious when there was an uprising in India. The private army of the **EIC** rose up against what the company was doing, this was at first a **mutiny** but the soldiers were quickly joined by other Indians against foreign control (**great uprising/mutiny of 1857**).

Why rise up now? Well, before the system was unequal but it was still a dual **Anglo-Indian society** (access to inter-marriage) --> it was fairly harmonious and the country was shared. But the total control of the **EIC** fueled rising British racism and around **1840**, **British missionaries** started to arrive. They were opposed to Indian cultures and to inter-racial marriages. In addition, the Indians became increasingly scared of a forced conversion to **Christianity**.

At the same time, an Indian traveller visited Britain and stopped in **Crimea** on his way back where he witnessed the "powerful army of Britain" being completely defeated. Then the **EIC** decided to try invading **Afghanistan** which ended up a suicide mission since the enemy had better guns. The EIC wants to upgrade theirs and buys new rifles, that can shoot further but the munition had to be bitten and were covered in pig grease. This was seen as a total disrespect and a proof of forced conversion for the **Seapoys** who were mainly **hindus** and **muslims**.

Ultimately, the uprising will fail because of the lack of proper leadership and the run out of supplies. It was also brutally suppressed, and this marked the end of the **EIC** and the **Mughals**. The **British government** took full control over India until **1947** via the **British Raj (1858-1947)**.

Empire and China

Britain and China today

Like India, **China** is heavily linked to the British Empire. The two colonies are connected via two plants: **tea**, coming from China, and **Opium**, from India. This history is not well-known, even though it created incredible wealth and human misery. Human misery and wealth which can also resonate with **Trump's** war on drugs and his tariffs strategy.

In the **middle of the 19th century**, Britain will go to war twice to be able to sell drugs to China. Historians will call that the **Victorian Narcos**.

This also sheds light on China, and on what they call the "**century of humiliation**" caused by the defeat in these **Opium wars**. Though justified, the anger and resentment will cause dubious Chinese nationalist propaganda in the country today. It also contested the idea of China as a "rising power". In fact, they aren't new, they are returning to being "the true center of the world", the so-called "**Middle Kingdom**".

This whole part of history can be linked to today's drug and opioid crisis and to the people profiting from this misery. It sheds light on Britain and its link with the rest of the world: the

history of **tea**, of **Hong Kong**, the **Opioid crisis** today, etc. An incident also happened when the British PM wanted to wear a **poppy** to pay homage to the dead of **WWI** but did it in China where this symbol is highly offensive.

Tea and opium

Tea has its origins in China and became a "**pan-Chinese**" drink during the **Tang dynasty**, it is also linked to spirituality and **Buddhism** via the "tea ceremonies", and at first no milk and no sugar were added.

It is also vastly traded via two different routes, and, depending on if **Britain** (sea) or **China** (land) were the producer, it will cause linguistic differences in the world either "**tea**" or "**chai**". It travels to **Japan** and via the **Dutch** and **Portuguese** to **India** and **Europe** (France). It arrived in **Great Britain** in **1660** via the Portuguese wife (**Catherine of Braganza**) of **Charles II** and the **Stuarts** were immediately fans. Tea is considered purifying, drinkable hot or cold and it is not alcohol, because at the time, there was a call for moderation around alcohol.

At a certain point, the **East India Company** started to import it directly to Europe and this rapid growth had a popular and political impact :

- 1) tea begins to be seen as the national beverage, and a "necessity" (social impact)
- 2) via taxes, tea becomes the main source of state revenue and thus, the financial engine of British imperial expansion (political impact)
- 3) ripple effects: more demands for sugar fuels the growth of slavery in the **Caribbeans** and **West Indies**.

However, the trade is pretty much one-way (From China to Great Britain) and it creates a huge **imbalance of payments**; Chinese sell tea to English but they are not interested in buying from the British (which we can link to Trump's Tariffs today). But the British realize that the Chinese are interested in **Opium**, and at the same moment, the British are conquering land in **India** where Opium is produced. They now have the lands they needed to produce a lot of **Opium**.

Opium is a **poppy plant** originally from Europe (**Switzerland**) and during Antiquity (named in the Odyssey), they used to mix it with wine. It arrives in India via Egypt where people eat and drink it (for war). It also becomes popular in China, where it is linked to refined sex.

The British are not the first or only European nation involved in opium trade, the **Dutch** realized its value some times before and established a profitable **Opium Society** (the future king William had his wife Mary who was from the Netherlands). Also, the **Portuguese** were bringing **tobacco** from the Americas to South-East Asia, enabling people to smoke opium for the first time.

Many, many people became addicted and it created the "**first drug epidemic**" in China (young, rich, old, poor, ...). The government tried to **ban** its use in the **2nd half of the 18th century** , pushing consumers to so-called "**opium dens**", but without any real effect.

Since the demand exploded right when the British conquered **India's opium farms**, the British claimed a monopoly on Opium trade (against the Dutch and French) and established the powerful **Opium Agency** that turned **Bengal** into one big **Opium farm**.

At the time that the **EIC** was producing and selling **Opium** to China, there were still independent **Indian traders of Opium**, called the **Malwa** opium trade, and this led to the rise of **Bombay** and thus, the **Marathas**.

The British Opium Empire

Tea becomes a necessity in Britain and this has broad implications:

- slave plantations need to grow to meet the demand for sugar
- The **Boston Tea Party** in the US happens to protest against new tea monopoly and taxes of the EIC
- **Britain** now has a massive trade deficit in **China**
- taxes on the tea trade become a major part of British revenue, if it fails, Britain is bankrupt.

They try a diplomatic mission which fails, China resists the Opium trade and this causes two wars.

In the European mind, European writers criticize **Ottomans** and **Mughals** yet they are very in awe of the **Chinese Empire**. It is seen as a rich, large, fertile and a populous country. However they don't have a lot of knowledge of the country, in fact, foreign presence is limited to prison-like trading stations, called "**factories**", leased from China at the Waterfront in **Canton (Guangzhou)**.



But, because of the Opium trade importance, the British want an embassy and stronger ties but the problem is that no one speaks Chinese, possibly because China did not allow foreigners to learn Chinese. At the time, the **Qing dynasty** was at the peak of its power: one of the longest living rulers, who was also really proud of its really recent conquests (including of **Tibet**). But they had never applied diplomacy in China and had never had ambassadors, only submissive barbarians giving tribute.

In **1800** the British tried a diplomatic mission, the **Macartney mission** which was a failure. The British had to **kowtow** to the emperor, which the ambassador didn't do, and also the Brits misunderstood geography, and their gifts were unimpressive to the Chinese. The emperor refused European goods but understood that they needed tea, silk and other Chinese goods.

→To **kowtow** in modern English = to show too much respect to someone in authority in order to please them. But originally = to show respect by kneeling in such a way that your head touches the ground, in a way used especially in the past in China

The diplomatic mission is a failure but ultimately the British will have the last laugh.

Indeed, the Chinese do not cancel the existing trade relations and this allows the Brits to make the **Opium** trade a powerful arrow and this will end up undermining the **Qing Empire**. This will cause 1) the rise of addictions at all level, 2) the rise of crime, because Opium is made illegal but still sold and consumed, 3) since the trade is illegal, boats are controlled but this causes a rise of corruption, 4) these are the perfect conditions to start a colonial takeover in the East.

The **EIC** is in charge of production, and they will force Indian farmers to grow poppy at a fixed price, meaning that even though the price of Opium rises the farmers are paid the same, this "**first drug cartel**" produces vast wealth (used also for troops to control India, and for their attempt at conquering **Afghanistan**). EIC is, however, (on paper) not in charge of distribution, which is illegal in China, so instead this "**black gold**" is openly auctioned off to private traders who run the risk yet the company still profited greatly from this situation.

Two very profitable opium companies were led by Scotsmen **Jardine and Matheson**, and their Indian partner **Jejeebhoy**. Those people will push for Britain to abolish the **EIC** opium monopoly and they will succeed in **1830's**;

- 1) everyone will now be working with gangsters because "it will be good for trade and Asia"
- 2) this will allow a rise of vicious views about **Chinese**, compared to before when they were admired, this is similar to what happened to India.
- 3) **Jardine and Matheson** will become more important in Britain
- 4) The **Qing Empire** begins to crack because of addiction, crime, corruption and a sudden trade deficit.

The **Qing court** in **Beijing** started noticing the silver draining out of the country via **Canton**, so the emperor- seen as weak because of the corruption at court- asked advice of a commissioner **Lin Zexu**, a capable **official of the Chinese civil service** (those officials have to pass competitive exams) known for its absolute honesty and seen as incorruptible.

The Chinese considered various options to resolve those problems, some of these they will end-up trying but not directly, those options include legalizing opium and growing poppy themselves but at that moment they opt for a full "**war on drugs**", they want to reduce the demand by educating people, rooting out corruption and destroying **opium dens**, and finally execute users if necessary.

Lin, via the emperor, got extraordinary powers to crack down **Canton**, so the opium could no longer enter: he confiscated pipes, opium and arrested dealers, etc. Until he realises that the true problems were the foreign traders, especially the British.

Tensions led to

- 1) a **riot** near the foreign factories and a face-off involving soldiers,

- 2) **Lin** politely told the Brits: opium production must be stopped and merchants need to surrender 4,000 chests of Opium or they cannot leave and their Chinese colleagues would be executed,
- 3) The British Official **Charles Elliot** panicked and told the traders to give up 20,000 chests and that the "Crown will compensate at market prices", so **Lin/emperor** and **Jardine/Matheson** win, but
- 4) **Queen Victoria** now had a huge bill for destroyed opium and had to follow the promise of compensation.

At the end, the Brits can't stop trading because they need the money, and the tea!

The First Opium War

Jardine realized that the repayment of the bill will be a problem, it is estimated to be around 6000000£ today, so he traveled back to Britain and made journalists write that "the despotic Chinese have deprived the British of food and liberty in these factories". And it manages to convince the cabinet and thus the PM, **Lord Palmerston**. They were eager to defend British rights and interests, so they drew up a plan to send gunboats.

However, people were critical because 1) they still thought highly of China, 2) Some people considered the opium trade illegal and immoral, 3) it felt risky to attack an empire the size of Europe (at the same time they are being kicked out in **Afghanistan**).

They come to an agreement of sending a small number of ships, but this squadron includes the first all-iron war steamer, the **Nemesis**. It was to "protect free trade" but also to get money back and open new ports for the opium trade. At first, the Chinese were not concerned, in part because the **Qing** considered themselves strong, but they never properly developed a Chinese navy and they did not realize that in this field, they are lagging behind compared to the West. So a highly unequal war will unfold. There were many Chinese casualties but almost no British casualties because China did not have a proper navy nor proper artillery. The war was so unequal that even British officers and sailors expressed their disgust for simply slaughtering those honorable defenseless adversaries. All of this to sell drugs.

The **Opium War of 1840** is a "shameful war" but it had real long-term impact. Those war junks (ships) were easily destroyed by the **Nemesis** and the **Congreve rockets** (inspired by Indian design and tactics of Tipu Sultan) near **Shanghai** in the East and near **Hong Kong** in the South (example of **battles near Chuenpi**). The British forces also seized the hills near **Canton** and

bombarded **Canton**, then shelled it, they wanted to loot the city, rape, kill, ... but the Chinese agreed to pay the ransom, abandon the bill, but the British had to not loot this giant city.

The **Sanyuanli** incident is when the Chinese fought back. The British (and Indian) troops near **Canton** caused trouble because they felt like they had a day-off (including accusations of rape), so a **local Chinese peasant militia** with swords and spears attacked the troops the day after the ceasefire. This happened during rains that rendered guns useless, but **Qing officials** ordered them to back down. In Chinese history it has become a heroic moment that shows that the farmers and the people are powerful compared to the Empire that backed down.

Charles Elliot, who was the cause of the debt, was considered ineffectual. So, to avoid bloodshed, **Henry Pottinger** replaced him and came in charge. He was a former spymaster and was unworried about sacrificing Chinese, even civilians.

Lin Zexu was also replaced by the nephew of the **Emperor Yijing**, and he was known as useless. His advisors were really weird: one of their tactics against the **Nemesis** was to train monkeys, tie them to dynamite and throw them at the boat. He tried to retake **Ningbo** in the East (near **Shanghai**) but his soldiers were wiped out by the British artillery and when the British moved on to **Beijing**, the **Qing** government capitulated.

This led to the unequal **Treaty of Nanking in 1842**:

- 1) Chinese had to pay large sum for war and for the opium seized by **Lin**,
- 2) they had to cede **Hong Kong** to British
- 3) The **Canton** factory system ends: new ports open to trade (including near **Shanghai**)
- 4) but **Opium** is still illegal

The Second Opium War

At that point, **Opium** is still illegal. Because

- 1) the British government maintained that the war was "never about opium", and people considered the trade dubious, even though the government relied heavily on the revenue of the tea trade – this funded the entire **royal Navy** worldwide- and tea trade was made possible by opium)
- 2) the legalization would harm **Jardine and Matheson**, who are respectables and wealthy (they bought half of Scotland). And also **Jejeebhoy**, who funded hospitals and received the British knighthood, all that was acquired by selling drugs and being responsible for the war.

The **treaty of Nanking** opens up ports, so the French got involved in the opium trade in southeast Asia. The trade ended up shifting to eastern China (especially Shanghai) to cut costs since the British wanted to be closer to **tea** and **silk** productions. But they lost the trade monopoly in **Canton** and this caused a dramatic economic decline in the south of China. In addition, a **religious sect** emerged that took control of **Nanking** (the alternative capital to Beijing). This led to the **Taiping Rebellion of the early 1850s**, which is the largest civil war in history causing 30 million deaths.

The **second Opium war** occurred **from 1855 to around 1860**. It started because

- The new ports did not yield enough wealth
- An incident in which **Qing** officials arrested the crew of the ship, **Arrow**, and took down the British flag
- This incident led the British and French to invade **Canton** and **Beijing**, forcing the emperor to flee. **The Old Summer palace** is looted and destroyed, **Victor Hugo** will later criticize this by comparing it to looting the most beautiful museum on earth.

The **end of the second opium war** led to a new treaty and resulted in the start of opium production in China, which enriched the **Qing** government via transit taxes. The legalizations led to the spread of addiction: this was no longer a luxury product so millions of users appeared. And it only **ended around 1950**.

Why was China never colonized, though it was weakened enough? The British were too busy in India with the **mutiny** and the **Raj**. They also supported the weak **Qing** dynasty because they were afraid of the French trying to colonize China. Even though China was never officially colonized, it was still economically enslaved by the British, Indians and opium.

Later, the story of opium and of the "**century of humiliation**" was used by the Chinese government to unify Chinese people against the threat of external enemies (Brits and Japan). They will also stress the noble peasant revolt. Yet it is seen differently by historians because ordinary people at that time were subjects of the emperor and not really citizens who identified with a country.

Another **opioid crisis** can be observed today, which is similar yet the story is inverted. Like the British during the Opium war, China says it is not their job to stop the fentanyl production if users

want it in the US. And people in the west, like the Chinese at the time, are blaming the foreigner for sending this "poison" into the country. The **US** blames China and people see this as if the US has lost its power and needs to be made great again.

Gender, war and Suez

The right to vote and women

Women's right to vote only got granted in **1918** and **1928**. In **1918**, only certain women could vote and the rest had to wait until **1928** to finally participate as a citizen (if they were over the age of 21). This is much later than New-Zealand and Australia

Men had acquired this right long ago, however not all men. The **universal male suffrage** arrived in **1918**.

Those two situations take roots in the **19th** century with the **Reform Act**. Before that, the system was really unequal, only citizens who met property qualifications (enough properties) could vote and certain towns or "**boroughs**" had the traditional right to send people to parliament as MPs, even if their population declined or disappeared and even if new cities could emerge and expand. The problem was obvious. Moreover, those cities with no inhabitants were known as "**rotten boroughs**" and they opened opportunities for all kinds of corruption; the **EIC** would buy those seats in parliaments for themselves.

This problem leads to various protests and, ultimately, to the **Great Reform Act of 1832**. The **Great Reform Act** was positive, at first, it extended the franchise to more people, abolished the rotten boroughs, and took into account new cities. But, the vote was not secret and property qualifications were still existing; also **GRA** created new problems by describing a voter as a "male person", this led to the rise of activist groups asking for vote.

Between 1900 and 1928, there were tense debates about voting rights for women and many acts of violence.

The **NUWSS** formed, **National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies**, led by Millicent Fawcett, they used peaceful protest and moderation to achieve their goals.

In **1900** the **WSPU**, **Women's social and Political Union**, led by **Emmeline Pankhurst** and her daughter **Christabel**, was a militant organization of **suffragettes** that was willing to use violence and direct action. Their slogan was "**deeds not words**" and a particular colour scheme which will become the colours of suffragettes: **purple, white and green**.

Some men were also fighting for the vote for women and on the opposite, there were women fighting against it (**Men's political union for Women's Enfranchisement**).

The **WSPU** will repeatedly clash with the **Liberal Party** who wants to only focus on voting rights for men (universal male suffrage). They had a delaying tactic saying "men first women (maybe) after!", which the Pankhursts were highly against. **David Lloyd George** and **Winston Churchill** were parts of this Liberal Party. The tactics of the WSPU slowly became more violent because of the delay:

- It started with public demonstrations, like the one in **Hyde Park**, which were the biggest demonstration ever at the time.
- They will develop a news paper "**Votes for Women**"
- Because of the non-response, they will start using violence by, at first, window-smashing raids (smashing windows of stores), arson attacks (of politicians' house), bomb attack and even hunger strikes
- A new militant newspaper developed, with a new militant tone : **The Suffragette**

When **WWI** started, the Suffragettes agreed to a "**cease-fire**" for the public interest. In **1918** the **Representation of People Act** gave the vote to men over 21 and women over 30 and with property qualifications. Finally after new debates, in **1929**, the **universal suffrage** was acquired. In this tense debate, the figure of **Boudicca** will return and be used as an "icon" for female power and regency in Britain.

War and Churchill

Winston Churchill (born 1875 dead 1965) is both seen as a "unifier" and a colonial monster. He had a weird character with multiple facets: "If you're going through hell, keep going". During WWI, there was an attempt to break the stalemate of Western Front via a new Front. Churchill orders an assault, the assault of **Gallipoli** but it ends up catastrophic for **ANZAC** forces. So Winston Churchill is then forced out as Lord of the Admiralty and enlists to fight on the Western Front.

Before **WWII** started, he recognized the Nazi threat and showed really early a belief in "appeasement" instead of punishment towards Germany. People are sceptical after Gallipoli, but he became a very famous and celebrated leader, a "unifier", during **WWII** and he will deliver speeches that will even grant him the Nobel Prize for Literature.

- **Battle of the Atlantic:** U-boats (German submarines) became a serious threat, because the UK was very reliant on imports and unable to invade Europe without shipments .

- **Operation Dynamo (1940)**: successful attempt to evacuate british troops (and other) from the continent from Dunkirk, which seemed all-but-impossible but turned into a "miraculous" success.
- **Battle of Britain and the "Blitz"**: bombing campaigns from the germans to destroy ports/industry and morale (bombing of London), this brought the concept of Total War (target of civilians), --> however, allies bombed too! Dresden, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, ...
- **Battle of Normandy (1944)**: a successful invasion of France and Europe despite the German fortifications along the coast, the so-called "Atlantic Wall"

As of today, the opinions are divided. Because:

- His position on Suffragettes. He wasn't willing to listen to militants and was notoriously clashing with the WSPU and the government. This led to the Black Friday of 1910 where the police responded with sexual violence to the suffragettes. Churchill is blamed for this even though he will later support the 1918 bill.
- People in Wales : During the **Tonypandy riots**, Welsh miners will protest their working conditions in **Rhondda Valley (1910)**. The clash between the worker and the mines leads to police violence and Winston Churchill decides to send the army which causes even more violence. He is blamed for the violence but also for the "timing" which led the miners to not win in their protest, he is also blamed for undermining the position of strikers. Yet, he will support social reform too.
- He also has struggled with **Irish independence**: Winston Churchill sent in former soldiers of the British army during WWI, called "**black and Tans**" to help the police fight the **IRA (1920)**, they were so brutal that this led to protest against their tactics both in Ireland and Britain. But again, he supported the **Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1920**.
- During the **second World War** he made some controversial decisions such as the "**Europe first**" policy. Which wants that the Empire focus on Europe first, neglecting their colonies and causing, notably, the **Bengal Famine** (destroying food to avoid that Japan uses it + exportation of indian food for Europe; see famine of 1770 caused by Britain too)
- He also had controversial views in terms of India and races in general. He is completely opposed to **Gandhi** and to **Home Rule for India** because that would cause the end of the (supposedly benevolent) British Empire. This is an attitude that will be described as the one of a late Victorian Imperialist. This is joined by multiple remarks on race.
- **WWII** is often described as an "Allied victory" that is tied to the US and UK and which will lead to the UN. But there are considerable tensions between UK and US, it is also clear that

the UK is losing and has lost its importance on the world stage. Moreover, the fast advance of the Soviets against the Nazis compared to the US/UK's means that the Soviet Army has taken considerable territories in Europe, in fact most of Eastern Europe. The URSS uses the excuse of "pushing out the nazis really quickly" to invade, they also want to use Eastern Europe as a buffer wall against a potential future European invasion. The UK and the US don't react.

Suez and the end of the Empire

The **Suez Canal Crisis** in **1956** is a crucial turning point in showing that Britain was no longer a superpower and that the main tensions will now be between the USA and the URSS.

The story starts when Europeans want to go to Asia. At first navigators had to sail via the **Cape of Good hope** but it took a very long time for each journey. Another solution was taking a boat to **Egypt**, crossing the country and then taking another boat. At some point France and Egypt will create the **Suez Canal**, a sort of new super highway to the East from Egypt. It was created by a company led by **Ferdinand de Lesseps** and financed by rich French and Egyptians. Eventually, Britain is interested in trading with China and for access to its own oil fields in **Iran** (start of British Petrolly), so they will buy some parts of the **Suez Canal**.

Gamal Nasser is a young and charismatic Egyptian army officer who becomes very popular in neighbouring countries as well as **Egypt**. He will become the voice of a newly **independent, postcolonial Arab world**. However, he is disliked by the **French** and the **British** for his idea of independence (Egypt=British colony; Algeria=French), yet not by the **CIA** (who just wants them to not be communists). The British and French PMs want Nasser out of the way and Nasser "makes things worse" by nationalizing the Suez company. The US accepted the new situation, but the British and French secretly planned to invade Egypt and seize the canal with **Israeli** help.

The tensions are serious and between really important countries. In eastern Europe a new problem emerges in **1956**, as people in URSS hope for a different approach after Stalin's death, this cause the first major uprising in a soviet satellite state against the strong Soviet control erupts in **Hungary**;

The USA and the USSR both believe the other is behind the simultaneous crises in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. The idea of World War III even starts to emerge. Hungary will withdraw from the anti-NATO, **Warsaw Pact**, in hope that other countries will help their now neutral country. But the URSS suspects the US and fear the 1st domino falling. And **Khrushchev** realizes

that the **Red Army** can intervene in **Hungary** without problem, as the West is preoccupied with the **Suez Crisis**.

The strategy of Britain and its PM **Anthony Eden** is clearly dangerous. Firstly, this decision is made behind the back of the parliament but also the Queen, secondly they are also betraying the "special relationship" between the US and the UK (the Soviets don't realize this, too focused on the "evil american plan" but Nasser realize this). Finally this is a betrayal of the New rules-based era in which the **UN** helps to avoid future (nuclear) war. At a certain point the British air force do 2 things out of the plan, they annoy the Israelis by not helping them and mistakenly bombs a civilian airport in **Cairo**. In Egypt, Nasser realizes that his army is no match for Israel, the British and the French. So he withdrew. At the same point, the British and the French pushed anti-Nasser propaganda but people didn't believe this and it galvanised the resistance against themselves.

Since the US is not on board with the invasion plan, Nasser decides to simply block the Suez Canal, cutting off the oil supply for all of Europe. The US isn't affected since it can rely on their oil supplies in Venezuela. Israel also goes against the French and British. They realize they have secured more land and they really don't care about the Suez Canal. So they agree to a ceasefire with Egypt. This removes the excuse of France and Britain to invade Egypt as "peacekeepers" since "Egypt attacked Israel".

The British and French are bombing Egypt at the same time that the USSR is doing the same in Hungary. This makes them look, not like the peacekeepers they say they are, but as the same as the USSR bombing poor innocent countries. The Soviets even sent a letter, indirectly threatening to nuke London and Paris if they don't back down.

The UK and France are losing a lot of money, they also want oil but have none anymore. They turn to the US and ask for part of the **Venezuelan supply**. But oil in Venezuela is priced in dollars and not pounds like the rest of the oil; the US refuses to let the UK buy oil in pounds. The Bank of England and Chancellor warn that the **British pound** cannot lose value since its financial reputation is at risk. Quite a number of important countries are afraid of the declining reputation of the pound and they begin to withdraw their money.

Britain and France have to face this situation and back down. Both their reputations suffer a major break. This crisis has several consequences:

- 1) it showed how the **UN** had no response, so it let to it arming itself with expeditionary force (the "**blue berets**")
- 2) the Soviet ended up returning in **Hungary** because no one cared to help, too focused on Suez
- 3) afterwards, the French will support the **Israeli nuclear program**
- 4) This demonstrated to everyone that the British has lost most of its power because of **Egypt** but also the **US** and the **USSR**
- 5) This harmed the "**special relationship**" between UK/US, it showed that both were actually often opposed.