



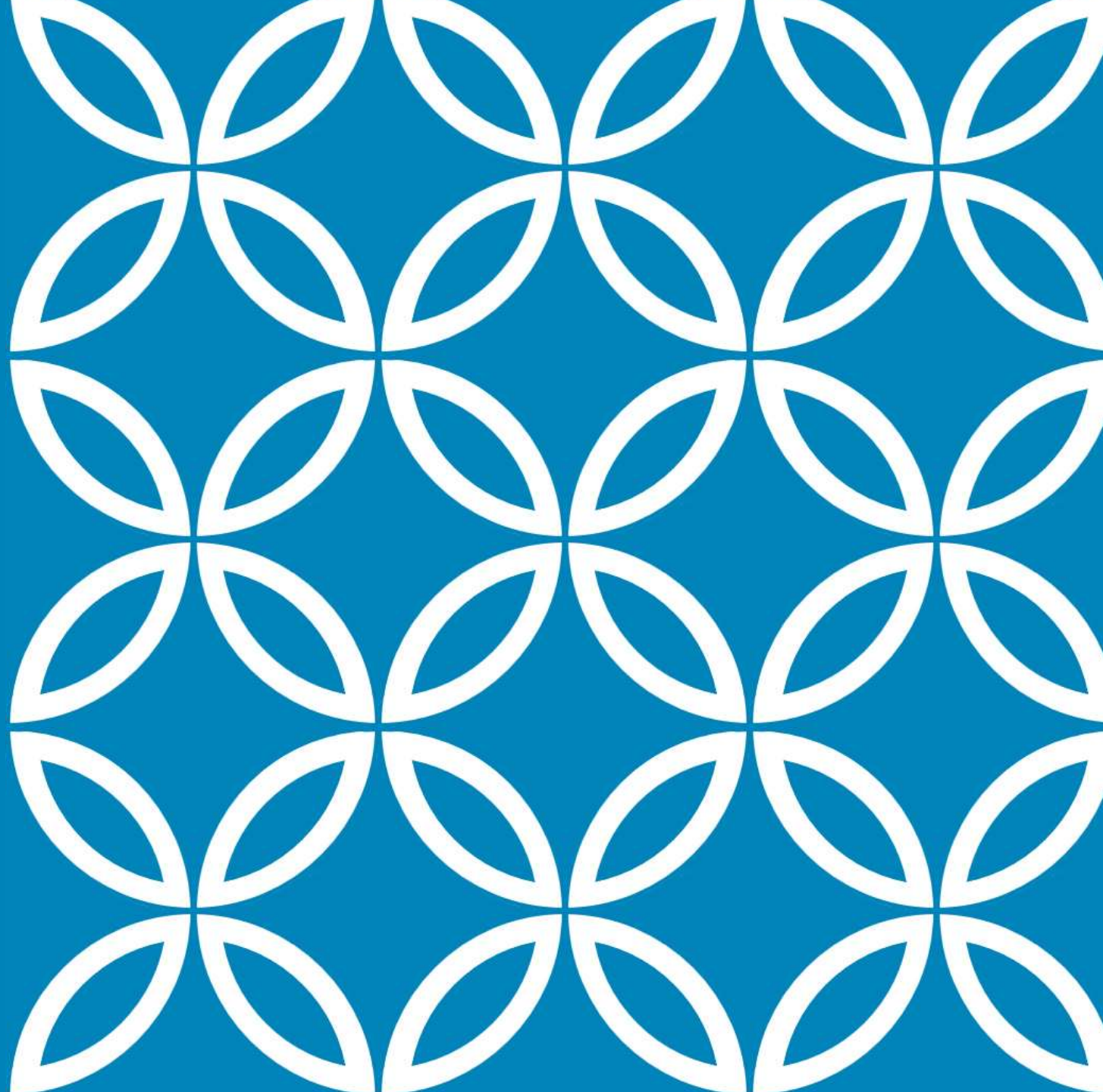
THE IMPACT OF EMPIRE 1815-1914

9. FROM WAR TO WINDRUSH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGt21q1AjuI>

PLAN

1. World at War
2. Windrush
3. Britain, 1948





Haywood Magee, Arrivals at Victoria (1956)

‘London is not, and never has been a city of native Londoners.
For nearly all of its history it has been fed by migration’
– Lindsey German and John Rees, *A People’s History of London*
(2012)

‘Perhaps no movement into Britain since that of the nineteenth
century Irish has had as profound an impact on Britain as the
migration from the Indian sub-continent and the West Indies’
– Panikos Panayi, *Anti-Immigrant Violence in 19th and 20th
Century Britain* (1996)



‘It is not, as many commentators suggest, that the presence of immigrants corrodes the homogeneity and solidarity that are necessary to the cohesion and mutuality of authentically social-democratic regimes, but rather that, in their flight from socialist principles and welfare-state inclusivity, these beleaguered regimes have produced strangers and aliens as the limit against which increasingly evasive national particularity can be seen, measured and then, if needs be, negatively discharged’

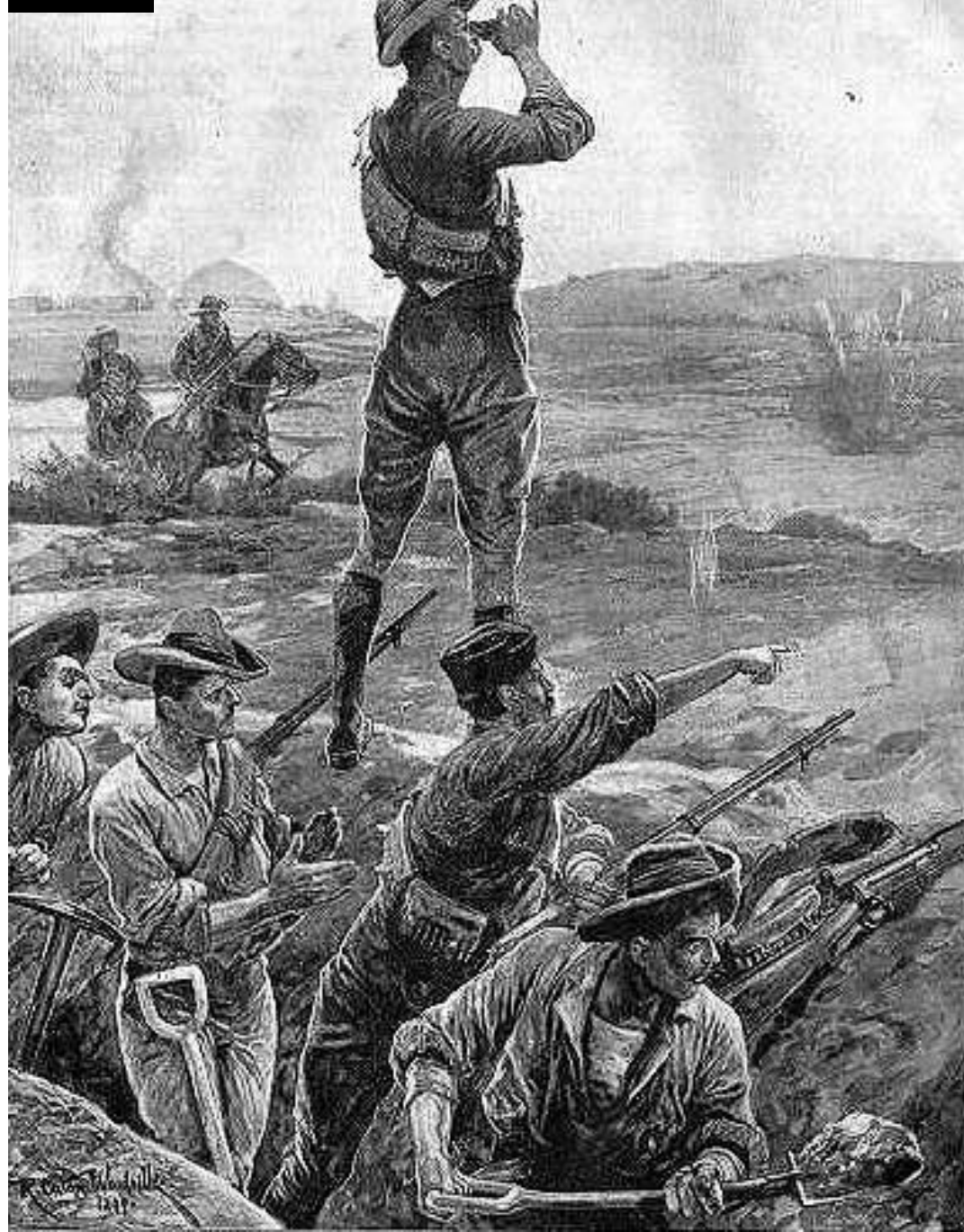
– Paul Gilroy, *There Ain't no black in the Union Jack* (2002)



1. WORLD AT WAR



Boers

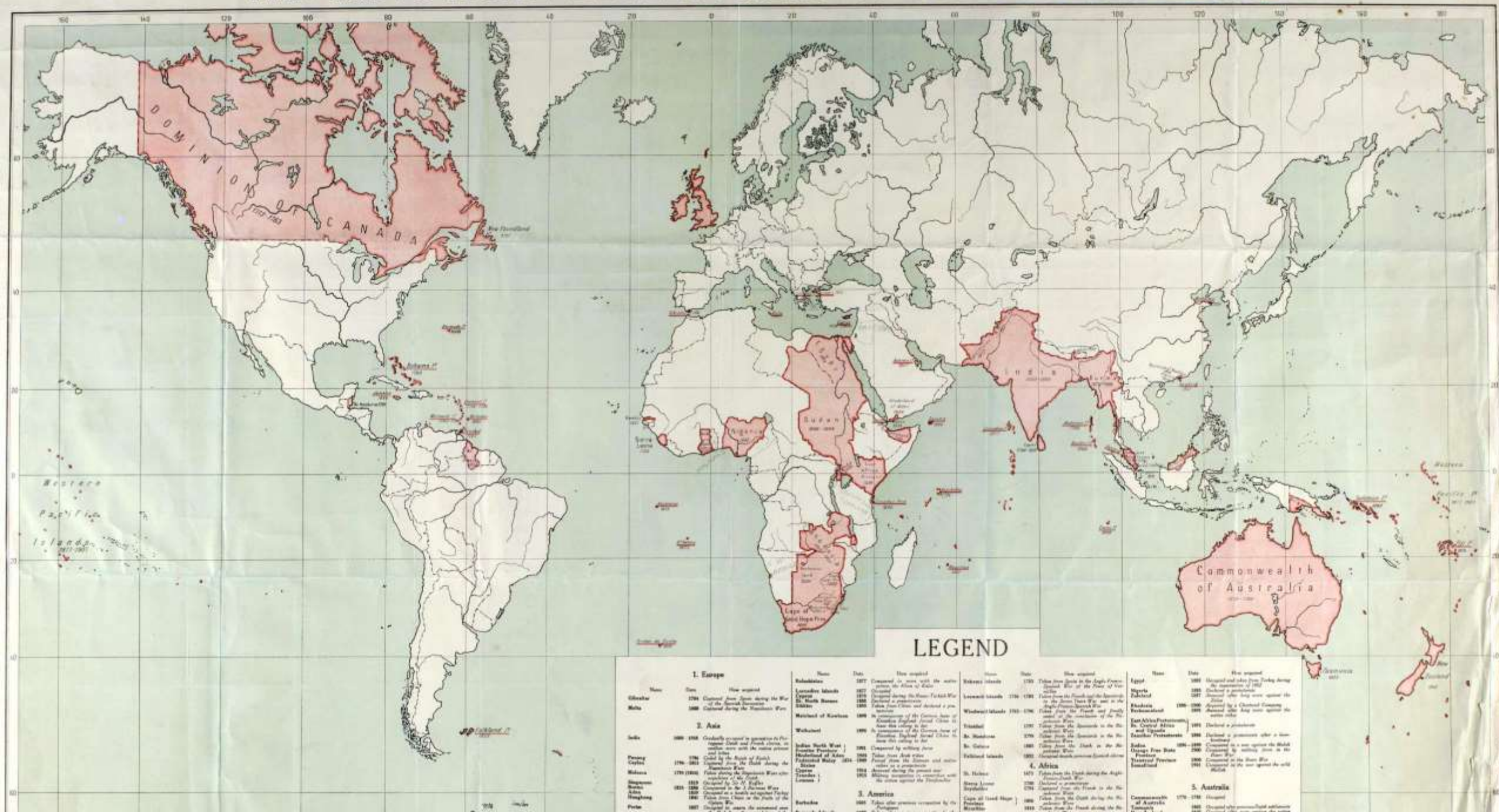


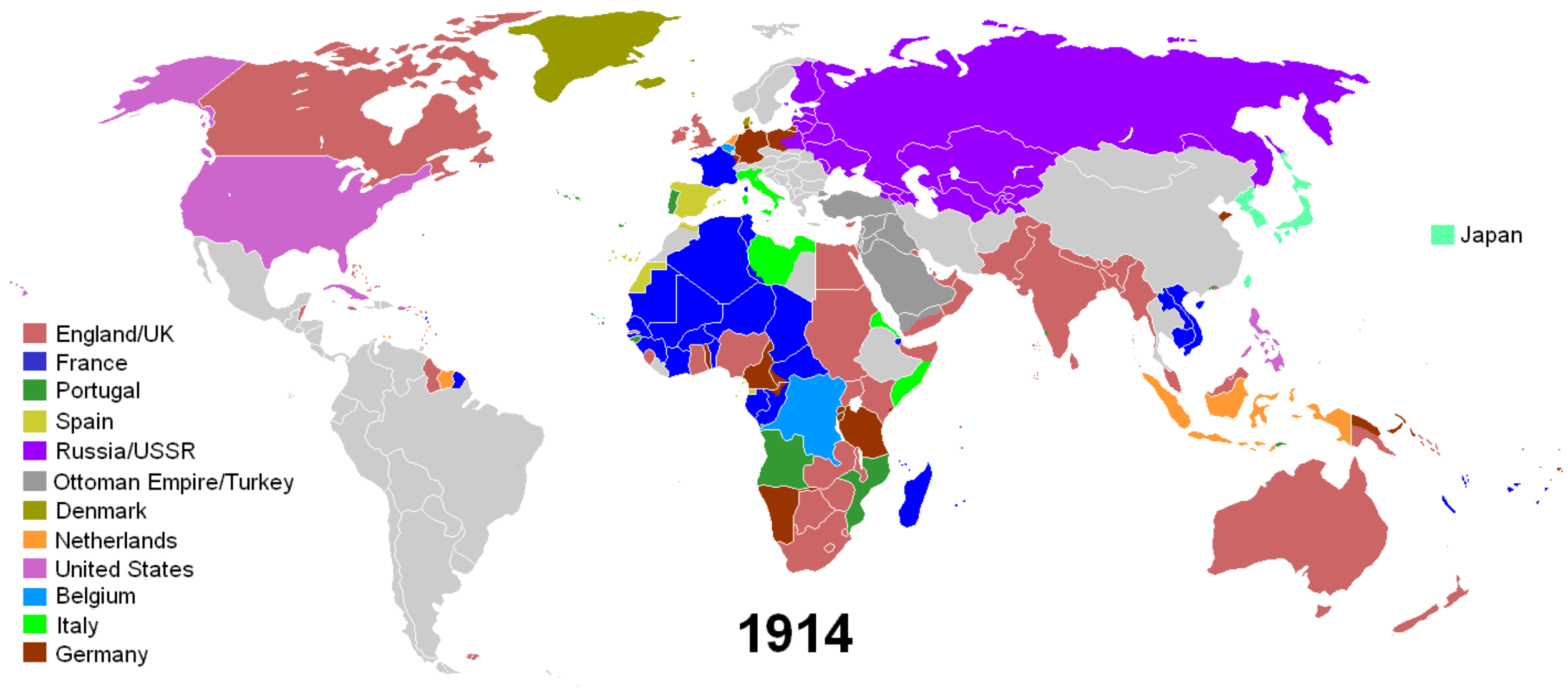
Boers



British

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE





BRITAIN, 1914

‘The weary Titan staggers under the too vast orb of its fate. We have borne the burden for many years.’ – Joseph Chamberlain

Boer War exposes weakness of British power (and society)...

8 of 11 k volunteers in Manchester were rejected as physically unfit. Legislation to improve public health, old age pensions etc. appears thereafter (1904 Physical Deterioration Committee)

Relative decline in commercial and military power from 1895: competition with Germany, United States and Japan

Home rule: Canada (1860), Australia and New Zealand (1900-01), Ireland ... ?

End of ‘splendid isolation’: treaties with Japan (1902), France (1904), Russia (1907)

Efforts at Berlin Conference-style international diplomacy inadvertently lead to the First World War, as alliances force more countries into a major war after...

The assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire

THE EMPIRE NEEDS MEN!



AUSTRALIA
CANADA
INDIA
NEW ZEALAND

All answer the call.

Helped by the **YOUNG LIONS**
The **OLD LION** defies his Foes.

ENLIST NOW.





EMPIRE OVER WW1

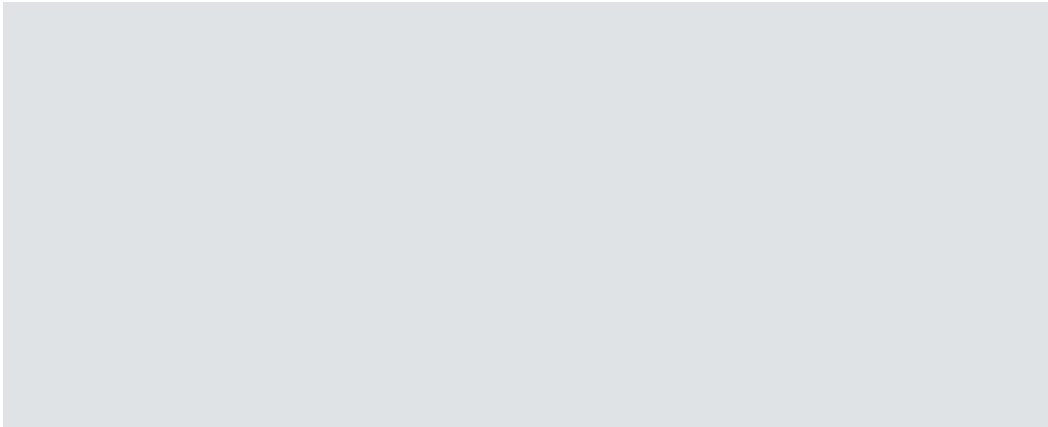
Britain's colonies sent 2.5 million men to fight for the 'mother country'

British India sent most (1.4m). Canada (628k), Australia (413k), South Africa (136k) and New Zealand (128k) *(5m soldiers were British)*

Even Irish republicans signed up. Some in Ireland and India hoped for Home Rule as a reward...

Any colonies not represented?

Volunteers from the British West Indies finally accepted from 1915, but were mainly in support roles across Europe, Palestine and Africa. Most died from sickness and poor conditions...





FROM WAR TO WINDRUSH

Up until 1914, black workers were often in casual, low-paid work

With the outbreak of war, new employment prospects...

Many began working in munitions factories and merchant navy

Churchill campaigned for a 'Million Black Army'...

The first shot of WW1 fired by Alhaji Grunshi of the Gold Coast Regiment, Togoland, 12th August 1914 (Stephen Bourne)

By end of WW1, 15,000 West Indians had entered military service

After the war, many subject to violence and discrimination. Race riots in Liverpool, Cardiff and London over 1919, with Charles Wootton murdered



£100 REWARD.

Whereas some malicious Person, or persons, are spreading a report about that I am a German, the above Reward will be paid to anyone giving information that will lead to a conviction.

L. FEITELSON,

JEWELLER,

327, GREEN ST. UPTON PARK.

N.B.— I am a Russian, born of Russian ancestors for generations, and have never seen Germany.



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(Late Thomas Evans)
Drapers and House Furnishers,
Ladies' and Children's Outfitters.
ESTABLISHED 1847

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3, 4, 5 & 6, Balaam Street,
PLAISTOW, LONDON, E.

To the Public of Plaistow, West and East Ham, Poplar, Canning Town, Custom House, & East London generally.

In view of the regrettable incidents which have occurred recently, I would like to make my position perfectly clear, and to remove any possible doubt in the mind of any single person as to MY NATIONALITY

I should have supposed that there was no Britisher who could not see with half an eye that the name

STADDON

was
ESSENTIALLY ENGLISH

"English of the English," indeed. As a matter of fact, I was

BORN IN "GLORIOUS DEVON,"

where my parents and forefathers had farmed for generations, and with the single exception of a day trip to Cherbourg in a Channel Steamer, which I once took during a summer visit to the seaside, there is NO RECORD OF ONE OF US EVER HAVING BEEN OUT OF THIS COUNTRY. I therefore found it difficult to understand how anyone could honestly have supposed that there was the faintest trace of any but

PURE BRITISH BLOOD

in my veins. No! In common with all other inhabitants of our dear old country, I was deeply horrified and incensed when I read of the diabolical act of those accursed murderers in sinking the "Lusitania" without a moment's warning; but little did I think that I should ever be suspected of any connection whatever with such a nation of poisoners and pirates.

At the moment when unworthy suspicions, nay threats, were being directed at me, MY SONS AND NEPHEWS, with my sanction and hearty approval, were "DOING THEIR BIT" ON ACTIVE SERVICE ABROAD, and have been almost from the commencement of the war.

My business which is MINE AND MINE EXCLUSIVELY has not a single half-penny of anyone else's money in it; neither has any other person, British or Foreign, any interest whatever in it. Such as it is, I am running it for and by myself, and with it I shall have to sink or swim.

From the very commencement of my proprietorship I was resolved to make, what was then a sound, honest business, admirably conducted by my much respected predecessor—Mr. Thomas Evans, of still more service to the public by devoting the whole of my energies and wide experience to giving the public the

UTMOST POSSIBLE VALUE FOR THEIR MONEY.

My efforts from the very first were generally recognised, and I am proud and pleased to be able to say that I have made countless friends amongst my customers, whose interests and my own I always regard as identical.

(Signed) T. C. STADDON.

WW1: CLASHES WITH IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Major incidents broke out on five occasions between 1914 and 1917

Aug 1914: relatively minor, attacks on bakeries in Poplar and Islington

Oct 1914: violence in Deptford and Lee Green areas.

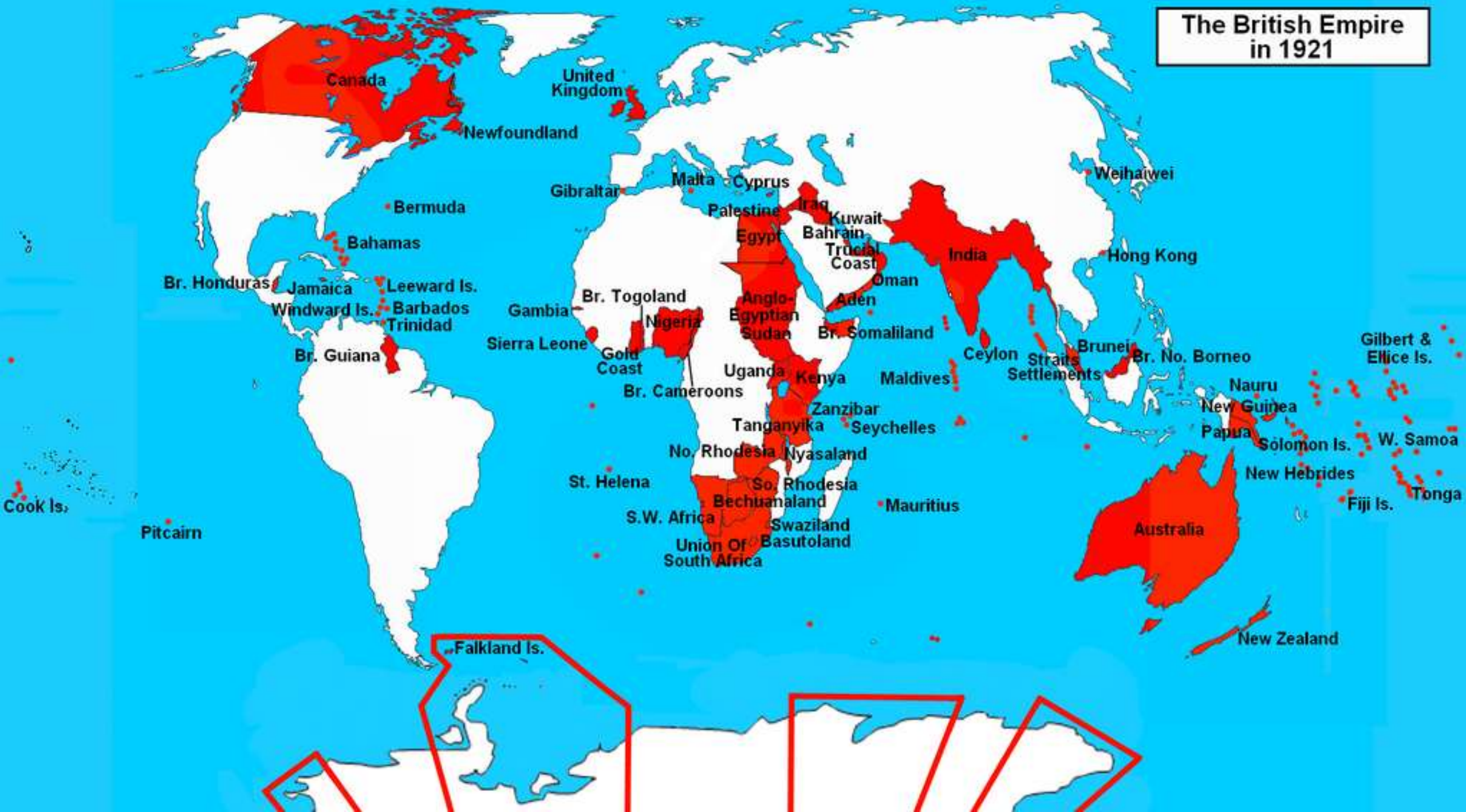
May 1915: violence widespread (19 of 21 districts) with 866 arrested, but particularly in East London, resulting in government implementing internment

June 1916: Violence in Acton, Islington and Tooting.

July 1917: violence in East London and South London, with Dutch, Russians and Italians attacked by large crowds, who also threatened an internment camp



The British Empire in 1921



INTERWAR BRITAIN

Germany surrenders in November 1918. By 1919 the Russian, Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian and German empires had disappeared. Britain was bankrupt...

Greatest territorial extent: 1920 (Palestine and Iraq, Pacific, Africa)

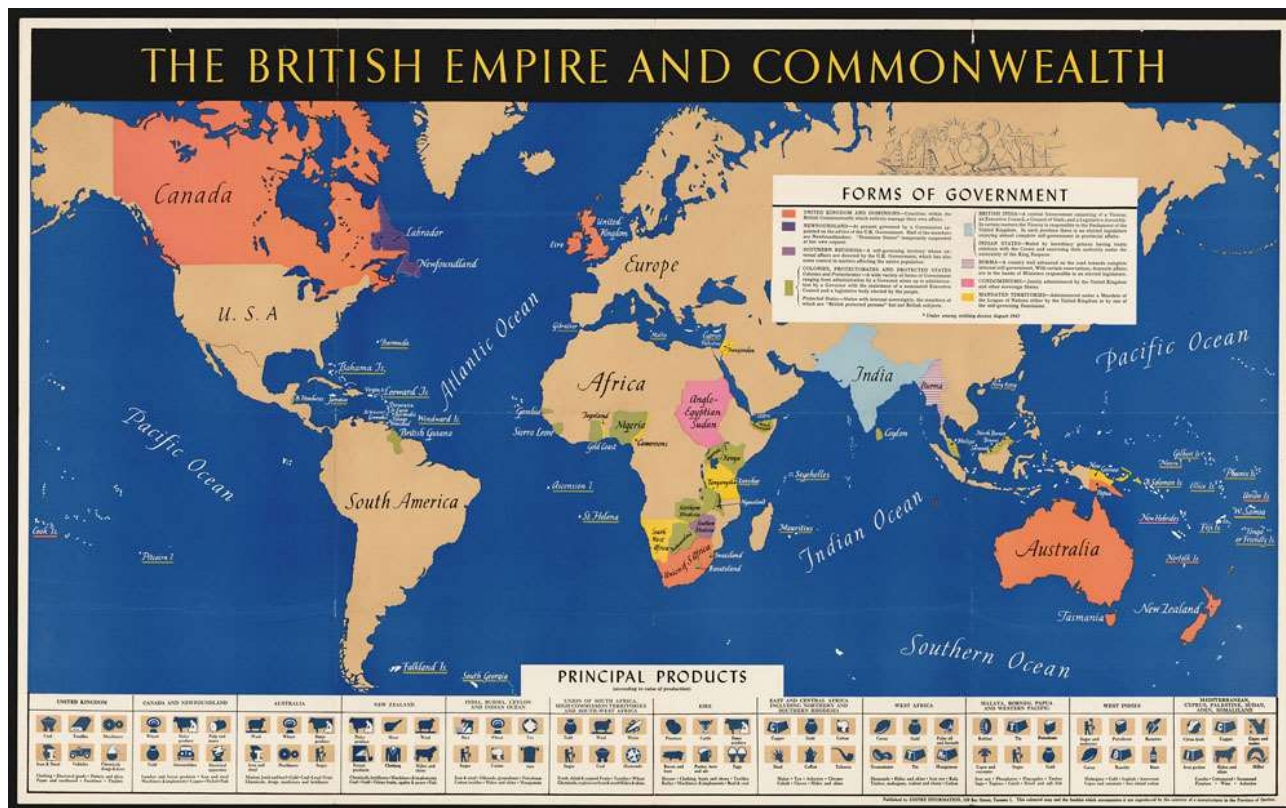
Irish Home Rule: 1921

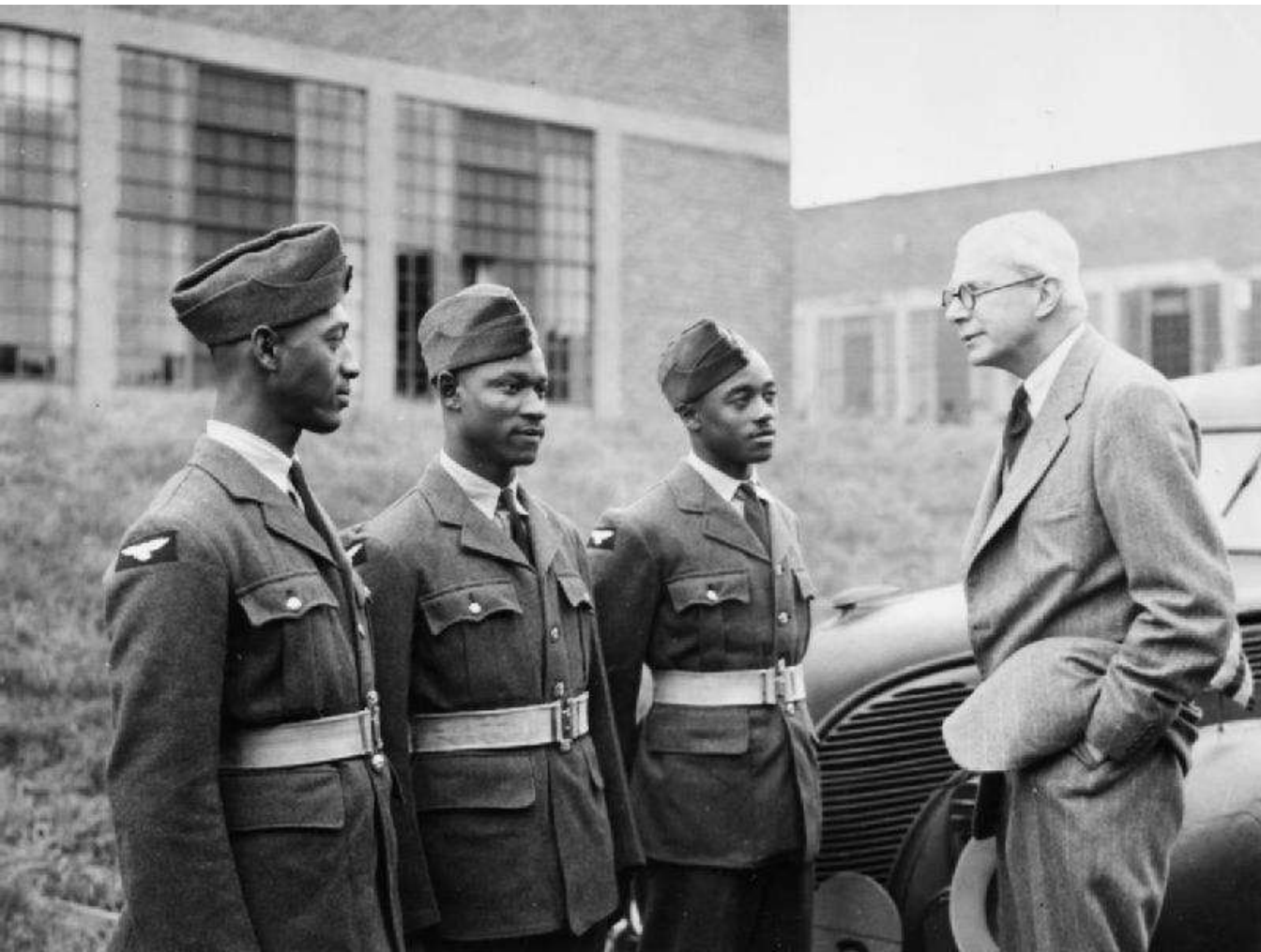
Rebellion in India following failure to grant Home Rule (Rowlett Act 1919)

Dominions allowed to set their own foreign policy (Imperial Conference 1923)

'Commonwealth of Nations' created 1926...

World drifts to war after Depression, rise of Fascism and failure of League of Nations to check the militarisation and invasions of Nazi Germany





WW2 MOBILISATION

Estimates vary for WW2 involvement, as ethnicity not recorded

2.5m Indians in a **10m** Commonwealth army

3.5m Black and Asian service personnel support Britain in WW2
(Trevor McDonald – this includes India...)

372,000 Africans who fought for Britain, including 6000 in RAF

Unlike WW1, these roles were skilled and often front-line

King's African Rifles and Royal West African Frontier Force fought in
Abyssinia, Somalia, Madagascar and Burma

170,000 American personnel in Britain, of which **11,000** were black





BLACK AMERICAN GIs

Very popular reception in Britain. Complains of white racism...

‘The general consensus of opinion seems to be that the only American soldiers with decent manners are the Negroes’ (Orwell)

In Bristol, one pub sign ‘Only blacks served here’, and another landlady after complaints from white American GIs: ‘Their money is as good as yours, and we prefer their company’

‘We ain’t no slaves, this is England’ – Cosham, Portsmouth, 1943

But a gradual moral panic and repression of relationships between black GIs and white British women

David Olusoga’s Black and British a very good source here



LARGEST NET SALES at any Daily Newspaper Printed in Northern, Southern, Central or Western India.

REGD. No. B111

The Times of India

ESTABLISHED 1858

NO. 195. VOL. CIX. BOMBAY: FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1947 PRICE TWO ANNAS

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OPTICIANS
BY APPOINTMENT TO
HIS HIGHNESS THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY
BALIWALLA & HOMI LTD.
188, MORSEY RD. STC.
BOMBAY

BIRTH OF INDIA'S FREEDOM



NATION WAKES TO NEW LIFE
Mr. Nehru Calls For Big Effort From People
"INCESSANT STRIVING TASK OF FUTURE"
Assembly Members Take Solemn Pledge
NEW CABINET OF INDIA

WILD SCENES OF JUBILATION IN PART III



STATE VISIT TO KARACHI
FRENZIED ENTHUSIASM IN BOMBAY
Crowds In Festive Mood

THE national flag was hoisted over the 74-year-old Bombay Civil Secretariat at midnight when the citizens of Bombay greeted the dawn of independence with solemn invocation and frenzied rejoicing.

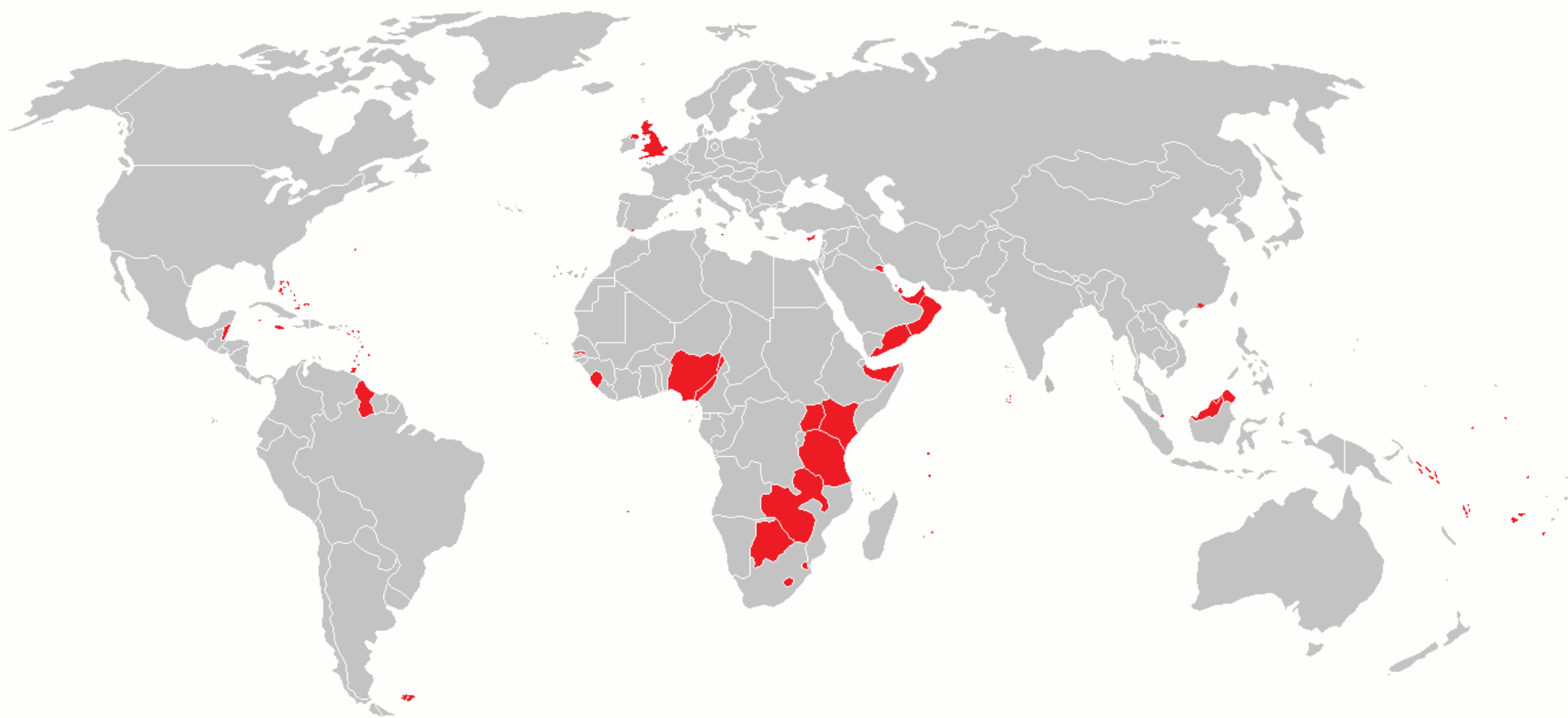
"Citizens of free India—you are now free"—said the Prime Minister, Mr. B. G. Kher, in raising the flag at the midnight ceremony, which was attended by all Ministers and departmental heads and employees of the Bombay Government.

The declaration was greeted with cheers from the thousands who gathered at the approaches to the Secretariat.

A strong police guard kept order with the greatest difficulty till the conclusion of the ceremony, when they lost control and hundreds of people rushed into the streets.

"MAY BOMBAY PROSPER"
Governor's Message
GOOD WISHES TO FREE INDIA
Sir John Colville, Governor of





The British Empire in 1959



2. WINDRUSH





OVER TO YOU

“British Pathe Reporter Meets” (1948): <https://youtu.be/QDH4lBeZF-M?t=44s>

“Our Jamaican Problem” (1955):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2VyKtfByXk>

What characterises the motives and experiences of migrants coming to Britain?

How are these motivations and cultural differences depicted?

WEST INDIES, 1948

1948 Nationality Act = 800 million subjects of the British Empire free to live and work in the UK.

West Indies: high unemployment, high cost of living, no social relief and severe hurricanes.

Britain: plenty of work and active recruitment in the West Indies (London Transport and the newly formed NHS).

Estimated 10,000 West Indians had served in the British military during the war.

Positive image that the British had always tried to construct and maintain as imperial rulers.



EMPIRE WINDRUSH

On 22nd June 1948, an ex-German troopship renamed the Empire Windrush docked in Tilbury.

On board were 492 passengers, the vast majority of which were Jamaican men

The ship had docked in Kingston Harbour to collect a handful of ex-RAF servicemen who were there on leave.

The enterprising captain of the vessel advertised half-price fares at £28 10s so as to fill the empty ship.

OVER TO YOU

In groups, please focus on either 1 or 2

What can we learn about attitudes to the Windrush migrants from authorities or from travellers themselves?

'I DON'T KNOW WHO SENT THEM'

A shipload of worry for Mr George Isaacs, Minister of Labour, will arrive at Tilbury on Saturday week - 500 West Indians, all seeking jobs in Britain. Mr Isaacs confessed his worry to MPs yesterday. He said he does not know who sent the men. 'All I know,' he added, 'is that they are in a ship and are coming here. They are British citizens and we shall do our best for them when they arrive.'

But MPs did not allow the mystery of 500 British citizens to rest there.

Mr Stanley (Tory: Bristol, W.) asked: Will you find out who is responsible for this extraordinary action?

Mr Isaacs: That is already being done. I wish I knew, but I do not. Those who organised the movement of these people to Britain did them a disservice in not contacting the Labour Ministry and giving it a chance to take care of them.

Mr Hughes (Soc: Ayshire, S.): Will you let them see the housing conditions in Scotland? Then they will want to go back to the West Indies.

Mr Driberg (Soc: Maldon, Essex): Will you instruct your officials to meet the ship and help them find work in undermanned industries in the interests of production and welfare?

Mr Isaacs: They will be met at the ship and told how to register for unemployment. The arrival of these substantial numbers of men under no organised arrangements is bound to result in difficulty and disappointment. I have no knowledge of their qualifications or capacity, and can give no assurance that they can be found suitable work. I hope no encouragement will be given to others to follow them. (*Daily Express*, Tuesday 8 June 1948)

EMPIRE MEN FLEE NO JOBS LAND:

500 HOPE TO START A NEW LIFE TODAY

‘Five hundred unwanted people, picked up by the trooper Empire Windrush after it had roamed the Caribbean, Mexican Gulf, and Atlantic for 27 days are hoping for a new life. They include 430 Jamaican men. And there are 60 Polish women who wandered from Siberia, via India, Australia, New Zealand and Africa to Mexico, where they embarked in the Empire Windrush. The Jamaicans are fleeing from a land with large unemployment. Many of them recognise the futility of their life at home.’

(Daily Express, 21 June 1948)



LABOUR SHORTAGES

Orbita brings 180 to Liverpool (1948); *Reina del Pacifico* 39; the *Georgic* 253 (1949)...

Numbers of West Indian migrants increase from 1951

1956: London Transport undertook a recruitment campaign in Barbados – by 1958, LT had 4000 black employees

British Hotels and Restaurants Association also targeted Trinidad

24,000 in 1954; 26,000 1956; 22,000 1957; 16,000 1958

By 1958, 210,000 people from the commonwealth living and working in Britain

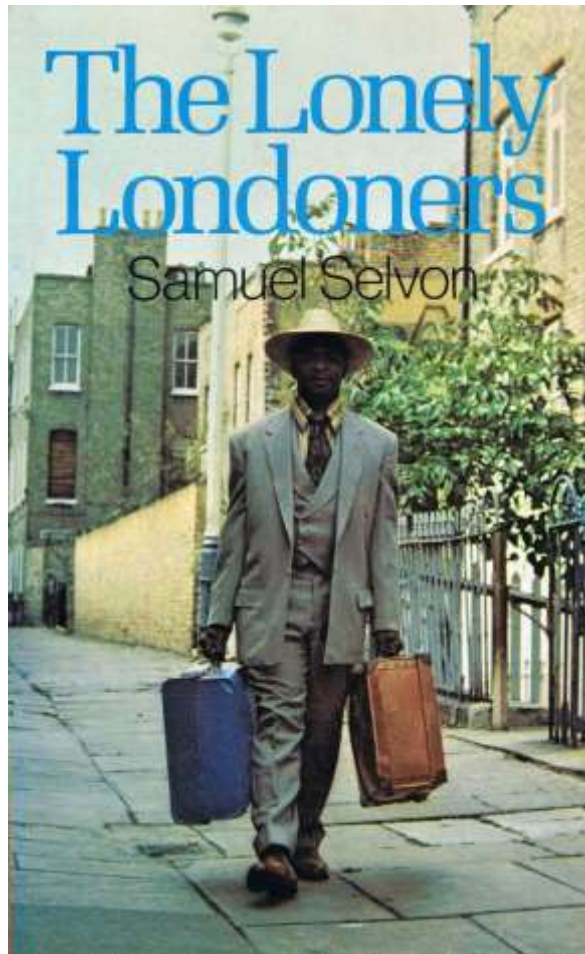
Only 13% of men and 5% women unskilled (Fryer)

LORD KITCHENER

London is the place for me, London that lovely city.
You can go to France or America, India, Asia, or Africa.
But you must come back to London city.
I said, London is the place for me. London, that lovely city.
You can go to France or America, India, Asia or America.
But you must come back, to London city.

London is the place for me. London this lovely city.
You can go to France or America, India, Asia or Africa.
But you must come back to London city.
London, this lovely city.
You can go to France or America, India, Asia or America.
But you must come back to London city.







3. BRITAIN, 1948

BRITAIN, 1948

Most initial migrants were working-age men, expecting to work in Britain for no more than five years, then return home wealthier

Stories about England transmitted from servicemen

Chimneys, dirt, smoke, and casual racism

‘The Jamaicans - and others with them - have been sorted into two groups: Group One: 82, who are volunteering for the Forces, will go to a Wimpole Street hostel (cost to them £1 1s a week). Group Two: 104 who have friends in England. Group Three: the rest with no contacts, who will go by motor coach to deep shelters on Clapham Common (cost 2/6d a week).’



‘Another MP who questioned the Colonial Secretary about their welfare, Mr Tom Driberg, warned them frankly that Britain was 'not a paradise'. 'You have been warned that there may be difficulties caused through ignorance and prejudice, but don't let it get you down. Try and stand on your own feet as soon as you can.’ - South London Press, 25 June 1948









SOUTH ASIAN IMMIGRANTS

Often lacked the language skills of West Indian migrants

White trade unionists resisted employment of non-white workers, e.g. West Midlands bus conductors

‘The first generation Asian immigrant in Britain . . . was not used to the mores and practices of an industrialised society. His presence was resented, and he suffered racist insults and indignities. He was denied a decent house and a job commensurate with his abilities. He was often not promoted to a higher position . . . The Asian immigrants are predictably frightened and bewildered. They are haunted by a sense of impending tragedy.’ (Fryer)



OVER TO YOU

Please turn to sources 3 and 4...

What were some of the responses to the Windrush migrants?

Can we draw a line with some of the broader ideologies of empire discussed on this course?



RACISM

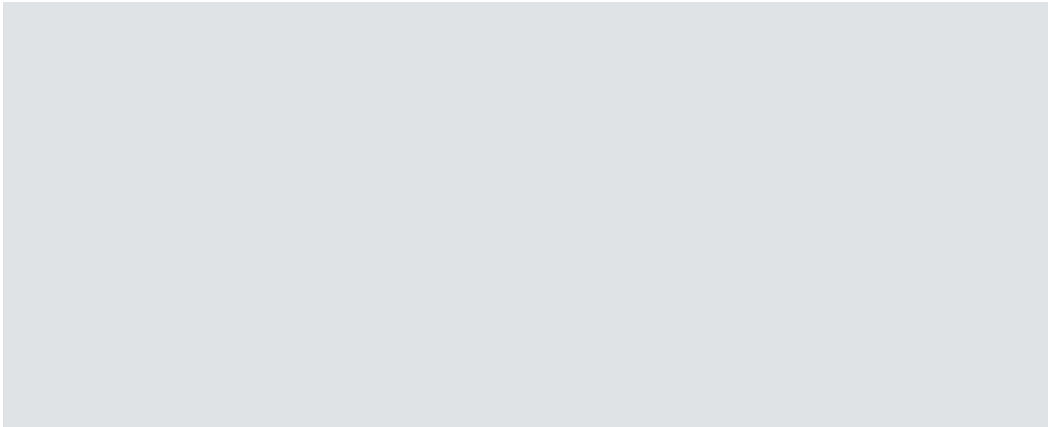
Immigrants were usually denied skilled work or public-facing roles

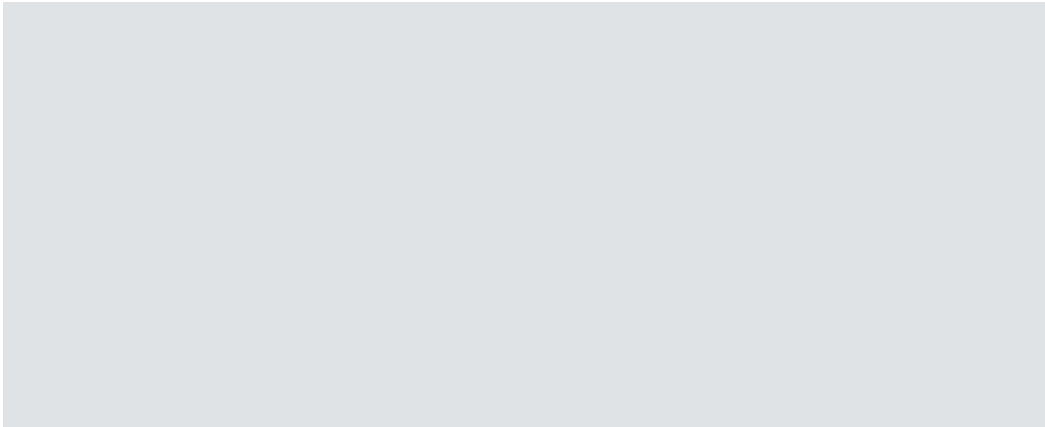
Cultural venues (pubs, clubs, dancehalls) operated an overt colour bar

Housing a major issue; few lodging houses would accept immigrants

Immigrants mostly at the mercy of slum landlords; tended to concentrate them into certain areas

Notting Hill, West London...





NOTTING HILL (1958)

August 1958 – anti-black rioting in Nottingham; and a petrol bomb attack on a West Indian family home in Camden in 1954

Notting Hill late 1950s; wealth and poverty juxtaposed

Neighbouring Notting Dale; predominantly white, working-class neighbourhood but numbers of young black men in nearby Notting Hill increasing

Racial tensions stirred up by Oswald Moseley's Union Movement and Colin Jordan's White Defence League; in August 1958 these boiled over into four days of racial violence

Six West Indians were badly injured, and nine white youths imprisoned

DAILY HERALD

No. 12818 (D)

Monday, September 1, 1958

Price 22d

PAPER
THAT
CAVES

Frightened men barricade themselves in

NEW RIOT TERROR

***5,000 rage round
London streets***

POLICE ARREST SCORES

By HERALD REPORTING TEAM:

Robert Bickford, Denis Potts,

Robert Truist, Peter Whittle

A NEGRO-BAITING mob of 5,000 stormed through London streets last night shouting for lynchings and blood.

Armed with sticks, bottles and stones, they roamed the Soering Hill area attacking coloured people, battling with police and smashing windows in a





NOTTING HILL (1958)

Over August, homes were petrol-bombed, West Indians chased and threatened with lynchings, abusive letters sent to homes...

Hit and runs and mob attacks in London and Middlesbrough

The *Manchester Guardian* reported that 'some of the West Indians, who always come here with such high hopes, are so downcast that they are talking seriously about accepting the last humiliation and getting a ship home'.

'A black man's treated worse than a dog here. They watch you wherever you go. You daren't go out in the evening – it's a prison, this country.'

KELSO COCHRANE

May 1959: an Antiguan carpenter, Kelso Cochrane, was murdered in Paddington by a gang of six white youths

As one mourner described it, 'it was our awakening'.





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Deportation for Jobless West Indians?

A WIDE discussion continues about coloured immigrants in Britain. This discussion came to a climax when, last year the controversial Commonwealth Immigrants Bill was passed by the Parliament.

The Tories and fascists who more ably campaigned for this measure then used the argument that coloured immigrants were "stealing British" jobs. Today, when an again being heard against restriction of coloured immigrants.

Recently a local newspaper even went so far as to suggest that unemployed immigrants be deported or be financially supported by their governments. Commenting on the recent Government proposals for higher National Insurance benefits and was pension and after wiping a few crocodile tears for these overseas increases for pensioners, widowed mothers, and old age and what it termed "the less protected sections of our society," it continued:

"With regard to the increase of ten shillings weekly to be paid in respect of standard rates of unemployment and sickness benefit, one can only hope that there will be some sort of assurance that with some 800,000 unemployed in this country at the moment, some of the thousands of immigrants who appear almost daily at our employment exchanges or the offices of the National Assistance Board will either be returned to their countries or substantially supported financially by their respective governments. However

Eastern Caribbean Union Moves Ahead

THE Barbados House of Assembly in Bridgetown last month voted unanimously in approval of the entry of Barbados into the proposed Federation of the Eastern Caribbean.

The members would be the "Little E" British West Indian Islands—Barbados, Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Earlier, according to an announcement from the Colonial Office, it was learned that the month of June has been set aside for the holding of independence talks between the "Little E" Ministers and the Ministry's Government.

(See pages 4 and 5.)

WHERE FRIENDSHIP IS BEING FORGED . . .



Students from Africa, Asia and Latin America in Pharmacy Laboratory at Prince Llewellyn University in Moscow (See pages 4 & 5)

SOVIETS TO BUY B.G. RICE

THE Soviet Union has agreed to buy 5,700 tons of rice from British Guiana for £200,000 worth West Indian dollars (G\$200,000) according to an announcement from Georgetown last month.

Shipments were scheduled to begin in late February or early March. The amount paid to the Soviet Government is based on the price paid by Cuba.

One of B.G.'s largest rice customers, from whom it was anticipated would take 20,000 tons of rice in Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago, has announced it is leaving the London High Commission that it will no longer buy B.G. rice, upon the price B.G. makes (and has now paid) at other than Commonwealth prices, except for rice for their own

GHANA DEGREE FOR DR. DUBOIS

DR. W. E. B. DUBOIS, noted American Negro historian and scholar, was awarded the honorary doctor's degree by Ghana University on his 70th birthday.

A celebration meeting for Dr. Dubois' birthday was held at Ghana University last month at

invitation by students, scholars and other prominent figures and foreign delegates.

Dr. Dubois recently assumed Ghanaian nationality. He has been residing in Ghana since 1960 heading the work of consulting on West African education.

Buying
 or Selling a House?

CONSULT

W. K. LAWTON & CO.

Set to Welcome Cricketers

WEET INEMANE is the U.K. and their many fans are all set to welcome the West Indies cricket team.

With 17 players, a manager and assistant manager, the famous team leaves Jamaica on their north tour of England on March 28. The tour will last six months.

MORRELL TO CAPTAIN TEAM

Frank Morrell, known as a great sportsman for his "thrills of stroke" and one of the world's leading cricketers ever, will be leading the West Indies team in his third series and his second overseas. Since taking over the job of captaincy the West Indies team has made tremendous strides towards emerging as world leaders.

The West Indies team lost 1-2 only to Australia in 1960-61 in a series which indicated a Test tie, that is, a Test cricket.

The West Indies in their 3-1 loss to India 1961-62 became, with England and Australia, the only countries to achieve this feat.

The touring party will include legspinner Alfred Valentine, who made the 1959 tour and together with Morrell will be on their third visit to England on a West Indies team.

(Continued on back page)

Ask
 your
 Grocer
 for
ENCONA

(West Indian Hot
 Pepper Sauce)
 Ground and Whole
 Hot Peppers



CARNIVAL

West Indian Gazette – London based monthly newspaper edited by Trinidadian journalist Claudia Jones

Organiser of the original Notting Hill Carnival which took place in January 1959 ('Caribbean Carnival')

Events in Notting Hill set an agenda for how the black community viewed British law, including the police and the courts

Notting Hill Carnival formally begins in 1966 however, with support from 'hippies' based at the London Free School...





ASSIGNMENT 6: FINAL

6. Final (20%) – “Land of Hope and Glory?” Write a 750 word evaluation of what you’ve learned about the impact of the British Empire. Draw upon and synthesise your earlier arguments and source analyses with your lasting observations.

Due: Mon 25th November



TRIP: NOTTING HILL WALK

MEET: NOTTING HILL STATION, 2PM

Meet at the ticket barriers of
Notting Hill Underground Station
(Central line) at 2.00

Any delays: 07784 084754