

Chapter 1 : Canada under British rule - WikiVisually

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Maritime expansion, driven by commercial ambitions and by competition with France , accelerated in the 17th century and resulted in the establishment of settlements in North America and the West Indies. Slave trading had begun earlier in Sierra Leone , but that region did not become a British possession until Nearly all these early settlements arose from the enterprise of particular companies and magnates rather than from any effort on the part of the English crown. The crown exercised some rights of appointment and supervision, but the colonies were essentially self-managing enterprises. The formation of the empire was thus an unorganized process based on piecemeal acquisition, sometimes with the British government being the least willing partner in the enterprise. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the crown exercised control over its colonies chiefly in the areas of trade and shipping. In accordance with the mercantilist philosophy of the time, the colonies were regarded as a source of necessary raw materials for England and were granted monopolies for their products, such as tobacco and sugar, in the British market. In return, they were expected to conduct all their trade by means of English ships and to serve as markets for British manufactured goods. The Navigation Act of and subsequent acts set up a closed economy between Britain and its colonies; all colonial exports had to be shipped on English ships to the British market, and all colonial imports had to come by way of England. Competition with France British military and naval power, under the leadership of such men as Robert Clive , James Wolfe , and Eyre Coote , gained for Britain two of the most important parts of its empire—Canada and India. Malacca joined the empire in , and Sir Stamford Raffles acquired Singapore in Dominance and dominions The 19th century marked the full flower of the British Empire. That office, which began in , was first an appendage of the Home Office and the Board of Trade, but by the s it had become a separate department with a growing staff and a continuing policy; it was the means by which discipline and pressure were exerted on the colonial governments when such action was considered necessary. Partly owing to pressure from missionaries, British control was extended to Fiji , Tonga , Papua, and other islands in the Pacific Ocean , and in the British High Commission for the Western Pacific Islands was created. The French completion of the Suez Canal provided Britain with a much shorter sea route to India. Britain responded to this opportunity by expanding its port at Aden , establishing a protectorate in Somaliland now Somalia , and extending its influence in the sheikhdoms of southern Arabia and the Persian Gulf. Cyprus , which was, like Gibraltar and Malta, a link in the chain of communication with India through the Mediterranean, was occupied in Elsewhere, British influence in the Far East expanded with the development of the Straits Settlements and the federated Malay states, and in the s protectorates were formed over Brunei and Sarawak. The greatest 19th-century extension of British power took place in Africa , however. Britain was the acknowledged ruling force in Egypt from and in the Sudan from The cabinet would depend primarily on support by the colonial legislative assembly for its tenure of ministerial office. Decisions on foreign affairs and defense, however, would still be made by a governor-general acting on orders from the British government in London. The system whereby some colonies were allowed largely to manage their own affairs under governors appointed by the mother country spread rapidly. In it was put into effect in the colonies in Canada, and it was later extended to the Australian colonies, New Zealand , and to the Cape Colony and Natal in southern Africa. These colonies obtained such complete control over their internal affairs that in they were granted the new status of dominions. This select group of nations within the empire, with substantial European populations and long experience of British forms and practices, was often referred to as the British Commonwealth. The demands and stresses of World War I and its aftermath led to a more formal recognition of the special status of the dominions. When Britain had declared war on Germany in it was on behalf of the entire empire, the dominions as well as the colonies. But after World War I ended in , the dominions signed the peace treaties for themselves and joined the newly formed League of Nations as independent states equal to Britain. The rest of the British Empire consisted for the most part of colonies and other dependencies whose predominant

indigenous populations had no such experience. By then, virtually nothing remained of the empire. The Commonwealth, however, remained a remarkably flexible and durable institution. Fireworks marking the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty on July 1,

Chapter 2 : South Africa - Countries - Office of the Historian

This fully updated third edition of The Making of Modern Korea provides a thorough, balanced and engaging history of Korea from to the present day. The text is unique in analysing domestic developments in the two Koreas in the wider context of regional and international affairs.

Random portal British Empire The British Empire comprised the dominions , colonies , protectorates , mandates and other territories ruled or administered by the United Kingdom and its predecessor states. It originated with the overseas possessions and trading posts established by England between the late 16th and early 18th centuries. At its height, it was the largest empire in history and, for over a century, was the foremost global power. As a result, its political, legal , linguistic and cultural legacy is widespread. At the peak of its power, the phrase " the empire on which the sun never sets " was often used to describe the British Empire, because its expanse around the globe meant that the sun was always shining on at least one of its territories. During the Age of Discovery in the 15th and 16th centuries, Portugal and Spain pioneered European exploration of the globe, and in the process established large overseas empires. Envious of the great wealth these empires generated, England, France , and the Netherlands began to establish colonies and trade networks of their own in the Americas and Asia. A series of wars in the 17th and 18th centuries with the Netherlands and France left England and then, following union between England and Scotland in , Great Britain , the dominant colonial power in North America. The independence of the Thirteen Colonies in North America in after the American War of Independence caused Britain to lose some of its oldest and most populous colonies. British attention soon turned towards Asia, Africa, and the Pacific. After the defeat of France in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars " " , Britain emerged as the principal naval and imperial power of the 19th century. Unchallenged at sea , British dominance was later described as Pax Britannica "British Peace" , a period of relative peace in Europe and the world " " during which the British Empire became the global hegemon and adopted the role of global policeman. In the early 19th century, the Industrial Revolution began to transform Britain; so that by the time of the Great Exhibition in , the country was described as the "workshop of the world". The British Empire expanded to include most of India , large parts of Africa and many other territories throughout the world. Alongside the formal control that Britain exerted over its own colonies, its dominance of much of world trade meant that it effectively controlled the economies of many regions , such as Asia and Latin America. To seek new markets and sources of raw materials, the British government under Benjamin Disraeli initiated a period of imperial expansion in Egypt, South Africa, and elsewhere. Canada, Australia, and New Zealand became self-governing dominions. Subsequent military and economic tensions between Britain and Germany were major causes of the First World War , during which Britain relied heavily upon its empire. The conflict placed enormous strain on the military, financial and manpower resources of Britain. Despite the final victory of Britain and its allies, the damage to British prestige helped to accelerate the decline of the empire. Fourteen overseas territories remain under British sovereignty. After independence, many former British colonies joined the Commonwealth of Nations , a free association of independent states. The United Kingdom is now one of 16 Commonwealth nations, a grouping known informally as the Commonwealth realms , that share a monarch , Queen Elizabeth II. Refresh with new selections below purge Selected article The British Overseas Territories are fourteen territories which the United Kingdom considers to be under its sovereignty , but not as part of the United Kingdom itself. The name "British Overseas Territory" was introduced by the British Overseas Territories Act , and replaced the name British dependent territory which was introduced by the British Nationality Act Before that, the territories were known as colonies or Crown colonies. The British Overseas Territories are also referred to as overseas territories of the United Kingdom, UK overseas territories, or when the context is clear, simply the Overseas Territories. The territories of Jersey , Guernsey and the Isle of Man , though also under the sovereignty of the British Crown, have a slightly different constitutional relationship with the United Kingdom, and are consequently classed as Crown dependencies rather than Overseas Territories. Territories and dependencies are distinct from the Commonwealth of Nations , a voluntary association of former British colonies and

latterly other nations such as Mozambique that have joined because of the benefits it offers.

Chapter 3 : Occupied Enemy Territory Administration - Infogalactic: the planetary knowledge core

The territorial evolution of the British Empire is considered to have begun with the foundation of the English colonial empire in the late 16th century. Since then, many territories around the world have been under the control of the United Kingdom or its predecessor states.

Governance[edit] The British Empire refers to the possessions, dominions and dependencies under the control of the Crown. In addition to the areas formally under the sovereignty of the British monarch, various "foreign" territories were controlled as protectorates; territories transferred to British administration under the authority of the League of Nations or the United Nations ; and miscellaneous other territories, such as the condominium of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. The natures of the administration of the Empire changed both by time and place, and there was no uniform system of government in the Empire. The Crown claimed absolute sovereignty over them, although they were not formally part of the United Kingdom itself. Generally their law was the common law of England together with whatever British Acts of Parliament were also applied to them. Over time, a number of colonies were granted " responsible government ", making them largely self-governing. Crown colony A Crown colony was a type of colonial administration of the English and later the British Empire, whose legislature and administration were controlled by the Crown. Crown colonies were ruled by a governor appointed by the monarch. By the middle of the 19th century, the sovereign appointed royal governors on the advice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. This became the main method of creating and governing colonies. There also existed lower houses which were usually named the Legislative Assembly or House of Assembly. The lower house was usually elected, but suffrage was restricted to free white men only, usually with property ownership restrictions. Since land ownership was widespread, most white men could vote. They held a consultative position, however, and did not serve in administrative offices as cabinet ministers do. Members of the Executive Council were not necessarily members of the lower house but were usually members of the upper house. Charter colony Charter colony is one of the three classes of colonial government established in the 17th-century English colonies in North America. In a charter colony, the King granted a charter to the colonial government establishing the rules under which the colony was to be governed and charter colonies elected their own governors based on rules spelled out in the charter or other colonial legislation. Proprietary colony A number of colonies in the 16th and 17th centuries were granted to a particular individual; these were known as proprietary colonies. Proprietary colonies in America were governed by a Lord Proprietor , who, holding authority by virtue of a royal charter, usually exercised that authority almost as an independent sovereign. Eventually these were converted to Crown colonies. Chartered company A chartered company is an association formed by investors or shareholders for the purpose of trade, exploration and colonisation. Chartered companies were usually formed, incorporated and legitimised under a royal charter. This document set out the terms under which the company could trade, defined its boundaries of influence, and described its rights and responsibilities. Groups of investors formed companies to underwrite and profit from the exploration of Africa, India, Asia, the Caribbean and North America, under the patronage of the state. Some companies such as the East India Company ruled large colonial possessions especially in India. A protectorate is a territory which is not formally annexed but in which, by treaty, grant or other lawful means, the Crown has power and jurisdiction. A protectorate differs from a "protected state". A protected state is a territory under a foreign ruler which enjoys British protection, over whose foreign affairs she exercises control, but in respect of whose internal affairs she does not exercise jurisdiction. Dominion Dominions were semi-independent polities that were nominally under the Crown , constituting the British Empire and British Commonwealth , beginning in the later part of the 19th century. Dominion status was formally defined in the Balfour Declaration of , which recognised these countries as "autonomous Communities within the British Empire", thus acknowledging them as political equals of the United Kingdom; the Statute of Westminster converted this status into legal reality, making them essentially independent members of what was then called the British Commonwealth. Initially, the Dominions conducted their own trade policy, some limited foreign relations and had autonomous armed forces , although the British government claimed and exercised the

exclusive power to declare wars. However, after the passage of the Statute of Westminster the language of dependency on the Crown of the United Kingdom ceased, where the Crown itself was no longer referred to as the Crown of any place in particular but simply as "the Crown". Arthur Berriedale Keith, in *Speeches and Documents on the British Dominions*, stated that "the Dominions are sovereign international States in the sense that the King in respect of each of His Dominions Newfoundland excepted is such a State in the eyes of international law". After then, those countries that were previously referred to as "Dominions" became Commonwealth realms where the sovereign reigns no longer as the British monarch, but as monarch of each nation in its own right, and are considered equal to the United Kingdom and one another.

Chapter 4 : Countries of the British Empire Quiz

The Union of South Africa was a self-governing autonomous dominion of the British Empire. Its independence from the UK was confirmed in the Balfour Declaration and the Statute of Westminster

Cabot led another voyage to the Americas the following year but nothing was ever heard of his ships again. This effort was rebuffed and later, as the Anglo-Spanish Wars intensified, Elizabeth I gave her blessing to further privateering raids against Spanish ports in the Americas and shipping that was returning across the Atlantic, laden with treasure from the New World. By this time, Spain had become the dominant power in the Americas and was exploring the Pacific Ocean, Portugal had established trading posts and forts from the coasts of Africa and Brazil to China, and France had begun to settle the Saint Lawrence River area, later to become New France. English overseas possessions In , Elizabeth I granted a patent to Humphrey Gilbert for discovery and overseas exploration. Gilbert did not survive the return journey to England, and was succeeded by his half-brother, Walter Raleigh , who was granted his own patent by Elizabeth in Later that year, Raleigh founded the Roanoke Colony on the coast of present-day North Carolina , but lack of supplies caused the colony to fail. This period, until the loss of the Thirteen Colonies after the American War of Independence towards the end of the 18th century, has subsequently been referred to by some historians as the "First British Empire". An attempt to establish a colony in Guiana in lasted only two years, and failed in its main objective to find gold deposits. The Province of Carolina was founded in The American colonies were less financially successful than those of the Caribbean, but had large areas of good agricultural land and attracted far larger numbers of English emigrants who preferred their temperate climates. Forts and trading posts established by the HBC were frequently the subject of attacks by the French, who had established their own fur trading colony in adjacent New France. Until the abolition of its slave trade in , Britain was responsible for the transportation of 3. For the transported, harsh and unhygienic conditions on the slaving ships and poor diets meant that the average mortality rate during the Middle Passage was one in seven. Besieged by neighbouring Spanish colonists of New Granada , and afflicted by malaria , the colony was abandoned two years later. The Darien scheme was a financial disaster for Scotlandâ€”a quarter of Scottish capital [55] was lost in the enterpriseâ€”and ended Scottish hopes of establishing its own overseas empire. The episode also had major political consequences, persuading the governments of both England and Scotland of the merits of a union of countries, rather than just crowns. Rivalry with the Netherlands in Asia Fort St. George was founded at Madras in The primary aim of these companies was to tap into the lucrative spice trade , an effort focused mainly on two regions; the East Indies archipelago , and an important hub in the trade network, India. There, they competed for trade supremacy with Portugal and with each other. Hostilities ceased after the Glorious Revolution of when the Dutch William of Orange ascended the English throne, bringing peace between the Netherlands and England. A deal between the two nations left the spice trade of the East Indies archipelago to the Netherlands and the textiles industry of India to England, but textiles soon overtook spices in terms of profitability, and by , in terms of sales, the British company had overtaken the Dutch. Gibraltar became a critical naval base and allowed Britain to control the Atlantic entry and exit point to the Mediterranean. Spain also ceded the rights to the lucrative asiento permission to sell slaves in Spanish America to Britain. The signing of the Treaty of Paris had important consequences for the future of the British Empire. Spain ceded Florida to Britain. The American Revolution began with rejection of Parliamentary authority and moves towards self-government. In response, Britain sent troops to reimpose direct rule, leading to the outbreak of war in The following year, in , the United States declared independence. American independence was acknowledged at the Peace of Paris in The loss of the American colonies marked the end of the "first British Empire". The US declared war, the War of , and invaded Canadian territory. Since , transportation to the American colonies had been a penalty for various offences in Britain, with approximately one thousand convicts transported per year across the Atlantic. European settlement increased through the early decades of the 19th century, with numerous trading stations established, especially in the North. In , the New Zealand Company announced plans to buy large tracts of land and establish colonies in New Zealand. Napoleonic

Wars Britain was challenged again by France under Napoleon , in a struggle that, unlike previous wars, represented a contest of ideologies between the two nations. Napoleon threatened to invade Britain itself, just as his armies had overrun many countries of continental Europe. The Battle of Waterloo ended in the defeat of Napoleon. The Napoleonic Wars were therefore ones in which Britain invested large amounts of capital and resources to win. French ports were blockaded by the Royal Navy , which won a decisive victory over a Franco-Spanish fleet at Trafalgar in Overseas colonies were attacked and occupied, including those of the Netherlands, which was annexed by Napoleon in France was finally defeated by a coalition of European armies in Abolitionism in the United Kingdom Sugar plantation in the British colony of Antigua , With the advent of the Industrial Revolution , goods produced by slavery became less important to the British economy. With support from the British abolitionist movement, Parliament enacted the Slave Trade Act in , which abolished the slave trade in the empire. In , Sierra Leone Colony and Protectorate was designated an official British colony for freed slaves. The Slavery Abolition Act , passed the following year, abolished slavery in the British Empire on 1 August , finally bringing the Empire into line with the law in the UK with the exception of St. Helena , Ceylon and the territories administered by the East India Company, though these exclusions were later repealed. Under the Act, slaves were granted full emancipation after a period of four to six years of "apprenticeship". By , the British Empire was linked together by a network of telegraph cables, called the All Red Line. The caption reads "New crowns for old ones! This trade, illegal since it was outlawed by the Qing dynasty in , helped reverse the trade imbalances resulting from the British imports of tea, which saw large outflows of silver from Britain to China. The following year the British government dissolved the Company and assumed direct control over India through the Government of India Act , establishing the British Raj , where an appointed governor-general administered India and Queen Victoria was crowned the Empress of India. The East India Company had failed to implement any coordinated policy to deal with the famines during its period of rule. Later, under direct British rule, commissions were set up after each famine to investigate the causes and implement new policies, which took until the early s to have an effect. The Great Game British cavalry charging against Russian forces at Balaclava in During the 19th century, Britain and the Russian Empire vied to fill the power vacuums that had been left by the declining Ottoman Empire , Qajar dynasty and Qing Dynasty. This rivalry in Central Asia came to be known as the " Great Game ". For a while it appeared that another war would be inevitable, but the two countries reached an agreement on their respective spheres of influence in the region in and on all outstanding matters in with the signing of the Anglo-Russian Entente. Britain formally acquired the colony, and its large Afrikaner or Boer population in , having occupied it in to prevent its falling into French hands during the Flanders Campaign. Eventually the Boers established two republics which had a longer lifespan: Initially the Canal was opposed by the British; [].

Chapter 5 : What is Fascism? : AskHistorians

Yes, the statement was true in the case of South Africa and Australia. There are reasons to support my answer. South Africa- It was a British colony from and self-governing dominion in the period of 21 years from

The industry became concentrated in three main regions. The first to be exploited was the Saint John River system. Trees in the still almost deserted hinterland of New Brunswick were cut and transported to Saint John where they were shipped to England. This area soon could not keep up with demand, and the trade moved to the St. Lawrence River where logs were shipped to Quebec City before being sent on to Europe. This area also became insufficient, and the trade expanded westward, most notably to the Ottawa River system, which by provided three quarters of the timber shipped from Quebec City. The timber trade became a massive business. In one summer ships were loaded with timber at Quebec City alone. Rebellions of The Papineau Rebellion of After the War of , the first half of the 19th century saw the growth of political reform movements in both Upper and Lower Canada, largely influenced by American and French republicanism. The moderate reformers, such as Robert Baldwin and Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine , argued for a more representational form of government which they called " responsible government ". By "responsible," the reformers meant that such a government would be ultimately responsible to the will of the subjects of the colonies, not to authorities in London. The critical move toward responsible government came between and In practice it meant that the Executive Council of each colony formulated policy with the assistance of the legislative branch. The legislature voted approval or disapproval, and the appointed governor enacted those policies that it had approved. It was a transition from the older system when the governor took advice from an executive Council, and use the legislature chiefly to raise money. Louis-Joseph Papineau was elected speaker of the colonial assembly in His attempts at reform were ignored by the British, and in , the assembly passed The Ninety-Two Resolutions , outlining its grievances against the legislative council. Papineau organized boycotts and civil disobedience. The colonial government illegally ordered the arrest of Papineau. The Patriotes resorted to armed resistance and planned the Lower Canada Rebellion in the fall of British troops in the colony quickly put down the rebellion and forced Papineau to flee to the United States. Upper Canadians had similar grievances; they were annoyed at the undemocratic governance of the colony, and especially by the corrupt and inefficient Bank of Upper Canada and the Canada Company. The rebels were hopelessly outnumbered and outgunned, and were defeated in less than an hour. Mackenzie escaped to the United States. Also in December, a group of Irish immigrants attempted to seize southwestern Ontario by force in the Patriot War. They were defeated by government troops at Windsor. He was assigned to investigate the causes of the Rebellions, and concluded that the problem was essentially animosity between the British and French inhabitants of Canada. His Report on the Affairs of British North America contains the famous description of "two nations warring in the bosom of a single state. A political union would, he hoped, cause the French-speakers to be assimilated by English-speaking settlements, solving the problem of French Canadian nationalism once and for all. The official language of the province became English and French was explicitly banned in the Parliament and in the courts. He nonetheless had to make some concessions to win support, and the most notable of these was persuading the Colonial Office to grant amnesty to the rebels of , and to abandon forced anglicization of the French-speaking population. Lafontaine and Baldwin reintroduced French as an official language alongside English in the Assembly, the Courts and other governmental bodies. Under the progressive Governor General James Bruce Lord Elgin , a bill was passed to allow the leaders of former Patriote movement to return to their homeland; Papineau returned and for a short time re-entered Canadian politics. A similar bill was passed for the former Upper Canadian rebels. Elgin also implemented the practice of responsible government in , several months after it had already been granted to the colony of Nova Scotia. The parliament of United Canada in Montreal was set on fire by a mob of Tories in after the passing of an indemnity bill for the people who suffered losses during the rebellions of Lower Canada. One noted achievement of the Union was the Canadian-American Reciprocity Treaty of which sanctioned free trade in resources. However, the achievement must be seen in the wider politics of British North America which had

seen the major boundary disputes with the United States settled see Rush's Bagot Treaty , Treaty of , Webster's Ashburton Treaty , Oregon Treaty , thus easing tensions which for most of the first half of the 19th century had Americans threatening war or retaliation. The Union Act of was ultimately unsuccessful, and led to calls for a greater political union in the s and s. Support for independence was strengthened by events such as the Battle of Ridgeway , an invasion into Ontario by some Irish nationalists which was repulsed largely by local militia. British colonies on the northwest coast[edit] Main article: In Alexander Mackenzie. The competing imperial claims between Russia, Spain and Britain were compounded by treaties between the former two powers and the United States, which pressed for annexation of most of what is now British Columbia. With the signing of the Oregon Treaty in , the United States agreed to establish its northern border with western British North America along the 49th parallel. Governor James Douglas was suddenly faced with having to exert British authority over a largely alien population. By the mids, politicians in the Province of Canada began to contemplate western expansion. This agreement endured for ten years until the American government abrogated it in

On May 31, 1910, four colonies were joined together to create the Union of South Africa, a self-governing Dominion in the British Empire. While the new nation was sovereign when it came to its domestic affairs, the United Kingdom maintained control over its relations with the wider world.

Share Union Jack, the symbol of the British Empire The British Empire was a colonial empire that comprised by the dominions, colonies, protectorates, mandates and other territories ruled or administered by the United Kingdom. It originated with the overseas possessions and trading posts established by England between the late 16th and early 18th centuries. As a result, British influence can be observed in the language, culture and legal systems of many of its former colonies widespread. At the peak of its power, the phrase "the empire on which the sun never sets" was often used to describe the British Empire, because its expanse across the globe meant that the sun was always shining on at least one of its territories. Contents [show] History Its empire-building began during the late 16th century, inspired by the Age of Discovery, when Portugal and Spain conquered vast amounts of land in the Americas. Envious of the great wealth these empires generated, England, France, and the Netherlands, began to establish colonies and trade networks of their own in the Americas and Asia. During a series of wars with the Netherlands and France during the 17th and 18th centuries, Britain gained vast amounts of land in the Americas and India. The independence of the 13 Colonies in North America in after the American Revolutionary War that created the United States of America caused the British imperial ambition then turned towards Asia, Africa, and the Pacific, particularly to India, created the second British Empire. Following the defeat of French Empire in 1803, Britain enjoyed a century of almost unchallenged dominance and expanded its imperial holdings across the globe. Increasing degrees of autonomy were granted to its white settler colonies, some of which were reclassified as dominions. With French, Belgian and Portuguese activity in the lower Congo River region undermining orderly incursion of Africa, the Berlin Conference of 1885 was held to regulate the competition between the European powers in what was called the "Scramble for Africa" that saw the transition from European imperial hegemony by military influence and economic dominance, to the direct rule of colonies. British gains in southern and East Africa prompted Cecil Rhodes, pioneer of British expansion in Africa, to urge a "Cape to Cairo" railway linking the strategically important Suez Canal to the mineral-rich southern portion of the continent. Subsequent military and economic tensions between the British and the Germans were major causes of World War I, during which Britain relied heavily upon its empire. The conflict placed enormous financial and population strain on Britain, and although the empire achieved its largest territorial extent immediately after the war, it was no longer a peerless industrial or military power. Despite the eventual victory of Britain and its allies in World War II, the British prestige was already damaged and accelerated the decline of the empire. After the end of World War II, communal violence on the British colonies in South Asia and a bloody colonial war in Burma catalyzed a large decolonization movement. Britain then granted independence to most of the territories of the Empire. This process ended with the political transfer of Hong Kong to China in 1997. The 14 British Overseas Territories remain under British sovereignty. After independence, many former British colonies joined the Commonwealth Confederation, a free association of independent states.

Ottoman Empire - The empire from to The triumph of the antireform coalition that had overthrown Selim III was interrupted in when the surviving reformers within the higher bureaucracy found support among the ayans of Rumelia (Ottoman possessions in the Balkans), who were worried by possible threats to their own position.

An entrenched clause in the Constitution mentioned Dutch and English as official languages of the Union, but the meaning of Dutch was changed by the Official Languages of the Union Act, to include both Dutch and Afrikaans. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Many opposed moves to make the country a republic , voting "no" in the 5 October referendum , but due to the much larger number of Afrikaans-speaking voters, the referendum passed, leading to the establishment of a republic in Natal , which had an English -speaking majority, voted against. Following the referendum result, some whites in Natal even called for secession from the Union. The features of the Union were carried over with very little change to the newly formed Republic. The decision to transform from a Union to Republic was narrowly decided in the referendum. First it entrenched the liberal by South African standards Cape Qualified Franchise system of the Cape Colony which operated free of any racial considerations although due to socio-economic restrictions no real political expression of non-whites was possible. Merriman , fought hard, but ultimately unsuccessfully, to extend this system of multi-racial franchise to the rest of South Africa. Second it made "native affairs" a matter for the national government. The practice therefore was to establish a Minister of Native Affairs. According to Stephen Howe, colonialism in some casesâ€”most obviously among white minorities in South Africaâ€”meant mainly that these violent settlers wanted to maintain more racial inequalities than the colonial empire found just. Early unification attempt under Sir George Grey s [edit] Sir George Grey , the Governor of Cape Colony from to , decided that unifying the states of southern Africa would be mutually beneficial. The stated reasons were that he believed that political divisions between the white-controlled states "weakened them against the natives", threatened an ethnic divide between British and Boer, and left the Cape vulnerable to interference from other European powers. He believed that a united "South African Federation", under British control, would resolve all three of these concerns. However, he was overruled by the British Colonial Office which ordered him to desist from his plans. His refusal to abandon the idea eventually led to him being recalled. The imposition of confederation s [edit] In the s, the London Colonial Office, under Secretary for the Colonies Lord Carnarvon , decided to apply a system of Confederation onto southern Africa. On this occasion however, it was largely rejected by southern Africans, primarily due to its very bad timing. The various component states of southern Africa were still simmering after the last bout of British expansion, and inter-state tensions were high. In addition, many local leaders resented the way it was imposed from outside without understanding of local issues. These smaller states would gradually accede to the much larger Cape Colony through a system of treaties, whilst simultaneously gaining elected seats in the Cape parliament. While subsequently acknowledged to be more viable, this model was rejected at the time by London. He pushed ahead with his Confederation plan, which unraveled as predicted, leaving a string of destructive wars across southern Africa. These conflicts eventually fed into the first and second Anglo-Boer Wars , with far-reaching consequences for the subcontinent. The newly arrived miners were needed for the mines but were distrusted by the politically dominant Afrikaners, who called them " uitlanders " and imposed heavy taxes and very limited civil rights, with no right to vote. The British, jealous of the gold and diamond mines and highly protective of its people, demanded reforms, which were rejected. The British war effort was further supported by volunteers from across the Empire. All other nations were neutral, but public opinion in them was largely hostile to Britain. Inside Britain and its Empire there also was a significant Opposition to the Second Boer War because of the atrocities and military failures. Prime Minister Salisbury and his top officials, especially colonial secretary Joseph Chamberlain , ignored the repeated warnings of military advisors that the Boers were well prepared, well armed, and fighting for their homes in a very difficult terrain. The Boers struck first, besieging Ladysmith, Kimberly, and Mafeking in early , and winning important battles at Colenso, Magersfontein and

Stormberg. Staggered, the British fought back, relieved its besieged cities, and prepared to invade first the Orange Free State, and then Transvaal in late 1900. The Boers refused to surrender or negotiate, and reverted to guerrilla warfare. After two years of hard fighting, Britain, using over 100,000 soldiers systematically destroyed the resistance, raising worldwide complaints about brutality. The Boers were fighting for their homes and families, who provided them with food and hiding places. The British solution was to forcefully relocate all the Boer civilians into heavily guarded concentration camps, where about 28,000 died of disease. Then it systematically blocked off and tracked down the highly mobile Boer combat units. The battles were small operations; most of the dead were victims of disease. The war ended in victory for the British and the annexation of both republics, which became the Transvaal Colony and the Orange River Colony. Hence the long-standing desire of many colonial administrators to establish a unified structure became feasible. South African customs union and trade tariffs[edit] The matter of trade tariffs had been a long-standing source of conflict between the various political units of Southern Africa. Essentially at the heart of the crisis lay the fact that the Transvaal was a landlocked economic hub that resented its dependence on its neighbours, as well as the costs it was incurring through rail and harbour customs. The Cape Colony was heavily dependent upon customs as a source of tax revenue and subsequently was directly competing with both Natal and Portuguese East Africa Mozambique. The South African Customs Union came into existence in 1910, but various problems existed with the arrangements particularly because the Transvaal was insistent on dominating the Union. Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia[edit] In the colony of Southern Rhodesia had a chance ultimately rejected to join the Union through a referendum. Some favoured responsible government within Southern Rhodesia while others especially in Matabeleland favoured membership in the Union of South Africa. Although opinion among the United Kingdom government, the South African government and the British South Africa Company favoured the union option and none tried to interfere in the referendum, when the referendum was held the results saw Palgrave Commission The inhospitable coast of what is now the Republic of Namibia remained uncolonised up until the end of the 19th century. From 1882, the leaders of several indigenous peoples, notably Maharero of the Herero nation, approached the Cape Parliament to the south. Anticipating invasion by a European power and already suffering Portuguese encroachment from the north and Afrikaner encroachment from the south, these leaders approached the Cape Colony government to discuss the possibility of accession and the political representation it would entail. Accession to the Cape Colony, a self-governing state with a system of multi-racial franchise and legal protection for traditional land rights, was at the time considered marginally preferable to annexation by Portugal or Germany. In response, the Cape Parliament appointed a special Commission under William Palgrave, to travel to the territory between the Orange and Cunene rivers and to confer with these leaders regarding accession to the Cape. In the negotiations with the Palgrave Commission, some indigenous nations such as the Damara and the Herero responded positively Oct 1907, other reactions were mixed. Britain relented, insofar as allowing the Cape to incorporate Walvis Bay, which was brought under the magisterial district of Cape Town, but when the Germans established a protectorate over the area in 1904, South West Africa was predominantly autonomous. South African occupation[edit] South West Africa stamp: With the establishment of the League of Nations and cessation of the war, South Africa obtained a Class C Mandate to administer South West Africa "under the laws of the mandatory South Africa as integral portions of its territory". Subsequently, the Union of South Africa generally regarded South West Africa as a fifth province, although this was never an official status. With the creation of the United Nations, the Union applied for the incorporation of South West Africa, but its application was rejected by the U. This invitation was in turn rejected by the Union, which subsequently did not modify the administration of South West Africa and continued to adhere to the original mandate. This caused a complex set of legal wranglings that were not finalised when the Union was replaced with the Republic of South Africa. In 1969, the Union passed a law bringing South West Africa into closer association with it including giving South West Africa representation in the South African parliament. Walvis Bay, which is now in Namibia, was originally a part of the Union of South Africa as it was a part of the Cape Colony at the time of Unification. Statute of Westminster[edit] The Statute of Westminster passed by the British Parliament in December 1931, which repealed the Colonial Laws Validity Act and implemented the Balfour

Declaration, had a profound impact on the constitutional structure and status of the Union. The most notable effect was that the South African Parliament was released from many restrictions concerning the handling of the so-called "native question". However the repeal was not sufficient to enable the South African Parliament to ignore the entrenched clauses of its constitution the South Africa Act which led to the coloured-vote constitutional crisis of the 1930s wherein the right of coloureds to vote in the main South African Parliament was removed and replaced with a separate, segregated, and largely powerless assembly.

Chapter 8 : Portal:British Empire - Wikipedia

British Empire: British Empire, a worldwide system of dependencies—colonies, protectorates, and other territories—that over a span of some three centuries was brought under the sovereignty of the crown of Great Britain and the administration of the British government.

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. The empire from to The triumph of the antireform coalition that had overthrown Selim III was interrupted in when the surviving reformers within the higher bureaucracy found support among the ayans of Rumelia Ottoman possessions in the Balkans , who were worried by possible threats to their own position. The dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, — The ayans took care to protect their own interests by securing a Covenant of Union, which defined and guaranteed their rights against the central government. Their victory, however, was short-lived. A further Janissary uprising in November led to the death of the Bayrakdar and to the reestablishment of conservative rule. Within the empire the authority of the central government was minimal. Control of North Africa had long since faded. The external threat to the empire was no less ominous. Selim III had hoped to enlist French aid in order to recover territory lost to Russia; as a result, the Ottomans found themselves at war with both Russia, which invaded the principalities i. Meanwhile, Napoleon I , through the agreements of Tilsit July 7 and 9, and Erfurt October 12, , abandoned active opposition to Russia and accepted its occupation of the principalities. The preoccupation of the European powers with other interests helped the Ottomans ameliorate their international problems. Through the Treaty of Bucharest May 28, Russia returned the principalities to Ottoman rule, although Russia retained most of Bessarabia. Internal reform Mahmud II was then able to concentrate on internal reform. That policy brought him into conflict with the Janissaries. He had the support of most of the higher ulama. Whereas in the Janissaries had enjoyed the approval of the population of Istanbul , in only two guilds gave them active help. Mahmud had built up a cooperative group among the Janissary officers and had carefully arranged to have loyal troops at hand. Perhaps most important of all, Mahmud made sure his proposals were perceived not as dangerous and infidel innovations but as a restoration of the military system of the Ottoman golden age. The destruction of the old army was completed in by the final abolition of the timar system. The remaining timars were resumed by the government. Although the new army was outfitted, equipped, and trained in the style of European armies and helped by a succession of European advisers including the future chief of the German General Staff, Helmuth von Moltke , it differed from the former army in its greater loyalty to the sultan. It thus became an instrument of political centralization, and it provided the major motive for modernization. The continuing effort to pay and equip the army and to train its officers and other specialized personnel in a sustained, but ultimately vain, attempt to keep pace with the European powers stimulated reform of the political and economic institutions of the Ottoman Empire. For example, the modernization of higher education began with the need to train officers, army doctors, and veterinary surgeons; that of the taxation system began with the need to pay the army; and that of the administration, with the need to collect the taxes. Ultimately the entire system of minimal government—by which political, economic, and social decisions were left to local organizations—was replaced by one in which the state centralized decisions in its own hands. Move toward centralization Mahmud began by curbing the power of rival claimants. He undermined the influence of the ulama and of popular religious organizations. To make his power more effective, he built new roads and in inaugurated a postal service. The central administration was reorganized. New European-style ministries were created to replace the ancient bottleneck of power caused by the vesting of full administrative responsibility in the grand vizier. New councils were established to assist in long-term planning; one, the Supreme Council of Judicial Ordinances , subsequently became the principal legislative body. Bureaucrats were given greater security by the abolition of the practice of confiscating their property at death, while the opening of a translation bureau and the reopening of embassies abroad gave some the opportunity to learn European languages and encounter European ideas. The reformed army and administration became the agents by which the sultan extended his authority over the semi-independent governors, local notables, valley lords, and other groups that had wielded political power in various parts of

the empire. That process had begun immediately after the Serbian revolt had been temporarily suppressed in 1813, although it broke out again in 1817. Firm Ottoman governmental control was established over Anatolia, Iraq, and much of Rumelia. In 1819 he attacked the Egyptians; once more the Ottomans were defeated June 24, 1822. Attempts to extend Ottoman control in the European provinces, notably in Greece, Serbia, and the principalities, were frustrated. The Greek revolt was the product of the economic prosperity of the Napoleonic Wars and exposure to western European ideas and was a reaction against Ottoman centralization. Ypsilantis was defeated, but an uprising began in the Peloponnese. A stalemate developed, but the Ottomans were reinforced in by Egyptian troops and threatened to put down the revolt. The destruction of the combined Ottoman and Egyptian fleets by Russian, French, and British naval forces at Navarino in the southwestern Peloponnese October 20, 1827, prevented the Muslims from supplying their armies and made Greek independence inevitable. The Ottomans were forced to recognize Greek autonomy and independence. Similarly, Ottoman efforts to regain control of Serbia and the principalities were obstructed by Russian opposition, leading to the Russo-Turkish War 1828-29. By the Treaty of Edirne, on September 14, 1829, the Ottomans ceded to Russia the mouth of the Danube and important territories in eastern Asia Minor and conceded new privileges to the principalities and Serbia. Serbian autonomy was recognized in 1830 and was extended over the full area of the state in 1839. By the time of the death of Mahmud II in 1839, the Ottoman Empire was diminished in extent; it was more consolidated and powerful than it had been at its height but was increasingly subject to European pressures, with Russia supporting and Britain opposing separatist movements and the other powers oscillating between. The cure, however, had begun. Mahmud had established the respectability of change, and its symbol was the replacement of the turban with the fez.

Purpose of the Tanzimat The Tanzimat has been the subject of much controversy. Many Western writers have dismissed the promises of reform as merely an Ottoman desire to win European diplomatic support at critical moments, and some features of the Tanzimat appear to support such a view. The promises of equality for Christian subjects were not always implemented—for example, it was proposed in 1839 to end the poll tax paid by non-Muslims and to allow them to enter the army, but the old poll tax was merely replaced by a new exemption tax levied at a higher rate, and Christians were still excluded from the army. It is also true that the timing of reform announcements coincided with crises: That view of the Tanzimat, however, is based on a misconception of its purpose. Europeans, who were principally concerned with improving conditions for Ottoman Christians, looked first at those elements of the Tanzimat that appeared to be directed toward that goal. To the Ottomans, however, the purpose of reform was to preserve the Ottoman state. Although the Ottomans found it necessary to make some concessions to European powers and to their own non-Muslim subjects and although some Tanzimat statesmen did consider equality to be an ultimate goal, it was the desire to preserve the state that brought about the mobilization of resources for modernization. The central reforms, therefore, were in the army, notably major reorganizations of the army and the latter following the pattern of the successful Prussian conscript system; in the administration, both at the centre and in the provinces; and in society, through changes in education and law.

Reform in education Before the reforms, education in the Ottoman Empire had not been a state responsibility but had been provided by the various millets; education for Muslims was controlled by the ulama and was directed toward religion. The first inroads into the system had been made with the creation of naval engineering, military engineering, medical, and military science colleges. In that way specialized Western-type training was grafted onto the traditional system to produce specialists for the army. Similar institutions for diplomats and administrators were founded, including the translation bureau and the civil service school; the latter was reorganized in 1833 and eventually became the political science department of the University of Ankara and the major training centre for higher civil servants. In the first comprehensive plan for state education was put forward. It provided for a complete system of primary and secondary schools leading to the university level, all under the Ministry of Education. A still more ambitious educational plan, inaugurated in 1839, provided for free and compulsory primary education. Both schemes progressed slowly because of a lack of money, but they provided a framework within which development toward a systematic, secular educational program could take place. By 1850 there were more than 36,000 Ottoman schools, although the great majority were small, traditional primary schools. The development of the state system was aided by the example of progress among the non-Muslim millet schools, in which the

education provided was more modern than in the Ottoman schools; by those included more than 1, Greek schools with about , pupils and some Armenian schools with more than 81, pupils. Non-Muslims also used schools provided by foreign missionary groups in the empire; by there were U. Reforms in law Law , to a large extent, also had been the responsibility of the various millets. The Capitulations exempted foreigners and those Ottoman citizens on whom foreign consuls conferred protection from the application of criminal law. The Tanzimat reformers had two objects in the reform of law and legal procedure: Their efforts resulted in the promulgation of a commercial code , a commercial procedure code , a maritime code , and a penal code French influence predominated in those, as it did in the civil code of 1838. Increasingly, the laws were administered in new state courts, outside the control of the ulama. Although they failed to achieve the purposes intended, they provided the basis for future success. Obstructions to reforms The Tanzimat reforms moved steadily in the direction of modernization and centralization. Centralization, meanwhile, was slowed by interference from the major European powers, who obstructed the Ottoman attempt to recover power in Bosnia and Montenegro in 1878, forced the granting of autonomy to Mount Lebanon in 1861, and considered, but eventually rejected, intervention to prevent the Ottomans from suppressing a revolt in Crete in 1869. Although Britain and France helped the Ottomans resist Russian pressure during the Crimean War, the Ottomans derived no real benefits from the peace settlement; new arrangements helped to bring about the unification of the principalities and paved the way for the emergence of independent Romania. The 1878 crisis The success of the Tanzimat reformers, ironically, created a systemic weakness as centralization removed the checks on the power of the sultan. Drought in 1877 and floods in 1878 had produced widespread discontent and even famine among the Ottoman peasantry, who already were disturbed by the increased burdens of a landholding system that had spread in the Balkans in the 19th century and by increased taxation and greater liability to conscription resulting from the military reorganization. The burden of taxation had been aggravated by the Ottoman debt burden. The Ottomans could meet only about half of their annual obligation, however, because a world financial crisis in 1873 had made new credit difficult to obtain. It culminated in uprisings largely of Christian peasants against Muslim lords in Bosnia and Herzegovina July 1875 and in Bulgaria August 1876. Ottoman efforts to suppress the uprisings led to war with Serbia and Montenegro July 1876 and to attempts by European powers to force Ottoman reforms. Agreement among the European powers proved impossible, and, when the Ottomans rejected Russian demands, Russia decided to act alone and declared war April 24, 1877. The war ended in defeat for the Ottomans, but their unexpected resistance at Plevna modern Pleven , Bulgaria; July 1877–December 1877 allowed other European powers, led by Britain, to intervene. According to the Treaty of San Stefano March 3, 1878, the Ottomans were to recognize the independence of Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro and cede territory to them, concede autonomy to an extensive new state of Bulgaria, cede territory to Russia in the Dobruja west of the Black Sea and eastern Asia Minor, introduce various administrative reforms, and pay an indemnity. Diplomatic pressure from other European powers led to the modification of those terms at the Congress of Berlin June 1878–July 1878. The major changes concerned autonomous Bulgaria , which was substantially reduced in size and divided into two parts, the northern part to have political and the southern eastern Rumelia to have administrative autonomy. The independence of Serbia, Montenegro, and Romania was recognized, but their territorial gains were much reduced. Russia retained its acquisitions of Kars and Batumi in Asia Minor. By a separate convention Cyprus was put under British rule. The settlement was a major defeat for the Ottomans. Eastern Rumelia was soon lost when it united with Bulgaria in 1885. The Ottoman territories in Europe were reduced to Macedonia, Albania , and Thrace , and European influence had attained new dimensions. In addition, the Ottomans were soon forced to accept new financial controls. The OPDA subsequently played an important role in Ottoman affairs, acting as agent for the collection of other revenues and as an intermediary with European companies seeking investment opportunities.

Chapter 9 : The British Empire At Its Largest Extent Quiz - By Tomyris

The table below explains when various territories entered or left the British Empire. It can be quite confusing as the borders of these territories could and did change, name changes were frequent, colonies amalgamated and combined with one another - not to mention various treaties and wars!

Cabot led another voyage to the Americas the following year but nothing was ever heard of his ships again. This effort was rebuffed and later, as the Anglo-Spanish Wars intensified, Elizabeth I gave her blessing to further privateering raids against Spanish ports in the Americas and shipping that was returning across the Atlantic, laden with treasure from the New World. By this time, Spain had become the dominant power in the Americas and was exploring the Pacific Ocean, Portugal had established trading posts and forts from the coasts of Africa and Brazil to China, and France had begun to settle the Saint Lawrence River area, later to become New France. English overseas possessions In 1498, Elizabeth I granted a patent to Humphrey Gilbert for discovery and overseas exploration. Gilbert did not survive the return journey to England, and was succeeded by his half-brother, Walter Raleigh, who was granted his own patent by Elizabeth in 1584. Later that year, Raleigh founded the Roanoke Colony on the coast of present-day North Carolina, but lack of supplies caused the colony to fail. This period, until the loss of the Thirteen Colonies after the American War of Independence towards the end of the 18th century, has subsequently been referred to by some historians as the "First British Empire". An attempt to establish a colony in Guiana in 1664 lasted only two years, and failed in its main objective to find gold deposits. The Province of Carolina was founded in 1670. The American colonies were less financially successful than those of the Caribbean, but had large areas of good agricultural land and attracted far larger numbers of English emigrants who preferred their temperate climates. Forts and trading posts established by the HBC were frequently the subject of attacks by the French, who had established their own fur trading colony in adjacent New France. Until the abolition of its slave trade in 1807, Britain was responsible for the transportation of 3 million. For the transported, harsh and unhygienic conditions on the slaving ships and poor diets meant that the average mortality rate during the Middle Passage was one in seven. Besieged by neighbouring Spanish colonists of New Granada, and afflicted by malaria, the colony was abandoned two years later. The Darien scheme was a financial disaster for Scotland—a quarter of Scottish capital [55] was lost in the enterprise—and ended Scottish hopes of establishing its own overseas empire. The episode also had major political consequences, persuading the governments of both England and Scotland of the merits of a union of countries, rather than just crowns. Rivalry with the Netherlands in Asia Fort St. George was founded at Madras in 1684. The primary aim of these companies was to tap into the lucrative spice trade, an effort focused mainly on two regions; the East Indies archipelago, and an important hub in the trade network, India. There, they competed for trade supremacy with Portugal and with each other. Hostilities ceased after the Glorious Revolution of 1688 when the Dutch William of Orange ascended the English throne, bringing peace between the Netherlands and England. A deal between the two nations left the spice trade of the East Indies archipelago to the Netherlands and the textiles industry of India to England, but textiles soon overtook spices in terms of profitability, and by 1700, in terms of sales, the British company had overtaken the Dutch. Gibraltar became a critical naval base and allowed Britain to control the Atlantic entry and exit point to the Mediterranean. Spain also ceded the rights to the lucrative asiento permission to sell slaves in Spanish America to Britain. The signing of the Treaty of Paris had important consequences for the future of the British Empire. Spain ceded Florida to Britain. The American Revolution began with rejection of Parliamentary authority and moves towards self-government. In response, Britain sent troops to reimpose direct rule, leading to the outbreak of war in 1775. The following year, in 1776, the United States declared independence. American independence was acknowledged at the Peace of Paris in 1763. The loss of the American colonies marked the end of the "first British Empire". The US declared war, the War of 1812, and invaded Canadian territory. Since 1789, transportation to the American colonies had been a penalty for various offences in Britain, with approximately one thousand convicts transported per year across the Atlantic. European settlement increased through the early decades of the 19th century, with numerous trading stations established, especially in the North. In 1840, the New Zealand

Company announced plans to buy large tracts of land and establish colonies in New Zealand. Napoleonic Wars Britain was challenged again by France under Napoleon , in a struggle that, unlike previous wars, represented a contest of ideologies between the two nations. Napoleon threatened to invade Britain itself, just as his armies had overrun many countries of continental Europe. The Battle of Waterloo ended in the defeat of Napoleon. The Napoleonic Wars were therefore ones in which Britain invested large amounts of capital and resources to win. French ports were blockaded by the Royal Navy , which won a decisive victory over a Franco-Spanish fleet at Trafalgar in Overseas colonies were attacked and occupied, including those of the Netherlands, which was annexed by Napoleon in France was finally defeated by a coalition of European armies in Abolitionism in the United Kingdom Sugar plantation in the British colony of Antigua , With the advent of the Industrial Revolution , goods produced by slavery became less important to the British economy. With support from the British abolitionist movement, Parliament enacted the Slave Trade Act in , which abolished the slave trade in the empire. In , Sierra Leone Colony and Protectorate was designated an official British colony for freed slaves. The Slavery Abolition Act , passed the following year, abolished slavery in the British Empire on 1 August , finally bringing the Empire into line with the law in the UK with the exception of St. Helena , Ceylon and the territories administered by the East India Company, though these exclusions were later repealed. Under the Act, slaves were granted full emancipation after a period of four to six years of "apprenticeship". By , the British Empire was linked together by a network of telegraph cables, called the All Red Line. The caption reads "New crowns for old ones! This trade, illegal since it was outlawed by the Qing dynasty in , helped reverse the trade imbalances resulting from the British imports of tea, which saw large outflows of silver from Britain to China. The following year the British government dissolved the Company and assumed direct control over India through the Government of India Act , establishing the British Raj , where an appointed governor-general administered India and Queen Victoria was crowned the Empress of India. The East India Company had failed to implement any coordinated policy to deal with the famines during its period of rule. Later, under direct British rule, commissions were set up after each famine to investigate the causes and implement new policies, which took until the early s to have an effect. The Great Game British cavalry charging against Russian forces at Balaclava in During the 19th century, Britain and the Russian Empire vied to fill the power vacuums that had been left by the declining Ottoman Empire , Qajar dynasty and Qing Dynasty. This rivalry in Central Asia came to be known as the " Great Game ". For a while it appeared that another war would be inevitable, but the two countries reached an agreement on their respective spheres of influence in the region in and on all outstanding matters in with the signing of the Anglo-Russian Entente. Britain formally acquired the colony, and its large Afrikaner or Boer population in , having occupied it in to prevent its falling into French hands during the Flanders Campaign. Eventually the Boers established two republics which had a longer lifespan: Initially the Canal was opposed by the British; [] but once opened, its strategic value was quickly recognised and became the "jugular vein of the Empire". Although this did not grant outright control of the strategic waterway, it did give Britain leverage. Joint Anglo-French financial control over Egypt ended in outright British occupation in A joint force of British and Egyptian troops defeated the Mahdist Army in , and rebuffed an attempted French invasion at Fashoda in Sudan was nominally made an Anglo-Egyptian condominium , but a British colony in reality.