

Libris .RO



Rețeaua de oameni și cărți

# HISTORY OF THE DEFINITIVE VISUAL GUIDE BRITAIN & IRELAND





1 COINS



2 GIMMEL RING



3 POSY RING



4 PEWTER BADGE



5 COMMEMORATIVE COIN



6 ARMADA JEWEL



# Tudor Life

The time of the Tudors marked a golden age not just of literature but of ornamental art and craftwork. For an elite, at least, life was now affording little luxuries – and leisure time, whether for private hobbies or social fun.

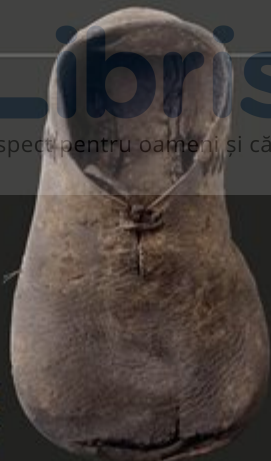
1 Coins from the reign of Henry VIII found aboard the wreck of his flagship, the *Mary Rose*, which sank in 1545.  
 2 Commemorative coin minted to mark Queen Elizabeth's recovery from smallpox in 1562 – represented here as the bite of a poisonous snake.  
 3 Gimmel ring with interlocking hands from the 15th century and given as a token of love and fidelity. Typically, a couple would each wear matching rings.  
 4 Posy ring made of gold with the inscription "I like my choice". It was designed as a gift for a sweetheart or spouse.  
 5 Pewter badge shaped as a rose, c.1500. These were worn by people who received charity from Henry VII.  
 6 Armada jewel c.1585–90 with a miniature of Elizabeth I by Nicholas Hilliard on the inner lid and the Tudor rose on the outer lid. This portrait was made to commemorate the English victory over the Spanish Armada and was mounted in a gold locket.  
 7 Watch set in emerald, c.1610. At this time, watches were prestige items and their dials did not register minutes or seconds.  
 8 Leather shoe in a style typical of the early Tudor period. More elegant and elaborate footwear would have been worn at court. The fashion for wide shoes became so pronounced that, under Henry VIII, a statute was

passed limiting their width to 15cm (6in).  
 9 Bone dice dating to the early 1500s. These are weighted with drops of mercury for fraudulent gambling use and some are incorrectly numbered for the same purpose.  
 10 Tennis ball of the Tudor period made of sewn leather and filled with hair. At this time, tennis was played in an enclosed court.  
 11 Gaming purse made of leather and silk that would have been worn hung from the owner's belt by leather thongs.  
 12 Embroidered chasuble – the colourful outer vestment worn by an officiating clergyman – embroidered with the Tudor rose and flowers c.1555.  
 13 Glass-and-silver tankard from 1546, used by Sir William Lord Parr of Horton, one of Henry VIII's courtiers.  
 14 Pendant enamelled reliquary cross of the 16th century.  
 15 Gloves made of leather with embroidered gauntlets from the 17th century.  
 16 Shoe horn made of cow-horn and decorated with a fashionably dressed male figure of the Tudor period.  
 17 Celebration couplets written in honour of Henry VIII in 1516. A castle is surrounded by sea, while the red dragon suggests the Tudors' Welsh roots and the white greyhound of Richmond represents Henry VIII's father, Edmund Tudor.



7 WATCH





12 LEATHER SHOE



13 EMBROIDERED CHASUBLE



14 GLOVES



15 BONE DICE



16 GLASS-AND-SILVER TANKARD



17 TENNIS BALL



18 GAMING PURSE



19 RELIQUARY



20 SHOE HORN



21 CELEBRATION COUPLETS

# The Great Fire of London

**This great conflagration decimated 80 per cent of the City of London, destroying familiar landmarks. New buildings would fill the gaps, including Christopher Wren's St Paul's Cathedral, transforming the skyline, and establishing new building patterns and standards that helped to create modern London.**

On 5 September 1666, famous diarist Samuel Pepys climbed the tower of All Hallows Church, close by his home in Seething Lane, and beheld a terrifying sight: raging fire as far as he could see. It seems the fire first sparked into life in the small hours of Sunday 2 September at Thomas Faryner's bakery in Pudding Lane, near London Bridge. By the following day, it had advanced west and north. King Charles II tasked his brother, the Duke of York, with controlling the fire-fighting operation – there was no true fire service at this time.

The summer had been hot and dry, the level of the River Thames was low, and a brutal wind blew from the east. Closely packed buildings, many largely timber, easily caught fire. For days, the flames ripped down narrow, twisting streets and through wooden warehouses stuffed with flammables such as oil, brandy, and pitch.

Buildings were pulled down and blown up with gunpowder to provide windbreaks. On 4 September, old St Paul's was engulfed and its lead roof melted "down the streets in a stream",

according to diarist John Evelyn. Many of London's hysterical citizens suspected arson. Some foreigners were lynched and the Spanish ambassador gave refuge to others. The fire was finally extinguished on 6 September. The next year, it was officially declared an accident caused by the hand of God, heat, and wind.

## A new city

After the disaster, Christopher Wren, John Evelyn, and Robert Hooke presented the King with ambitious rebuilding plans. Wren wanted to raise a magnificent Renaissance city with wide streets, but his ideas were deemed too costly and impractical. The new city arose slowly on the old plan, with some wider streets, new sewers, and (for the first time) pavements. Buildings were made of brick rather than wood.

Wren's St Paul's Cathedral, completed in 1711, became one of the world's most-admired buildings. Along with his jointly designed monument to the fire, and a number of satellite churches, he helped to shape the City's new profile and create an iconic skyline.

**"The churches, houses, and all on fire and flaming at once; and a horrid noise the flames made, and the cracking of houses at their ruins."**

SAMUEL PEPYS'S DIARY, 1666

## The fire by night

This painting, called *The Great Fire of London in 1666*, was created by 17th-century Dutch maritime artist Lieve Verschuier (c.1630–86). Many contemporary paintings depicted the event, providing historians with an important strand of evidence for what happened.



Libris .RO

Respect pentru oameni și cărți



# Libris

## Iron Age Britain

**The Iron Age, which began around 800 BCE, witnessed a gradual political consolidation. The warrior elites dominated the countryside from their hillfort strongholds. They also maintained strong links with their European counterparts, which ultimately proved to be their undoing.**

**A**s the Iron Age began in Britain, many areas saw a rise in the number of defended enclosures. The population was increasing and early chiefdoms were coalescing into larger political units. As this process continued, hillforts began to appear, particularly across southern, central, and western England, as well as in north Wales and the Welsh borders. Often with simple ramparts reinforced with timber and a single line of defences, hillforts such as Danebury, Hampshire, and Maiden Castle, Dorset, probably acted as the residences of local kings or chieftains. From around

650 BCE to 300 BCE, more than 3,000 hillforts were built. The society that was shaped by these new centres of population has conventionally been termed "Celtic". The term was first used by Greek writers, such as Herodotus, in the 6th century BCE to describe the barbarian groups living on the fringes of the Greek world. Certainly, people of the cultures later termed by archaeologists as La Tène and Hallstatt – who were Celtic speakers – spread from a central European homeland into France, the middle Danube, and Asia Minor. They even threatened to capture Rome in 390 BCE. Yet, "Celt" was not a term that the people of Britain used to describe themselves; nor did the Romans who encountered them in the 1st century BCE refer to them as Celts. The traditional theory that large-scale migration or invasion from Europe brought a Celtic hillfort society into Britain has been modified in favour of the view that it was a process of assimilation, rather than conquest, which led the



#### Bronze torc

Torcs (neck rings) were worn largely by men and were usually meant for ceremonial use. While the rich wore gold torcs, poorer men had to make do with bronze ones.

### BEFORE

**Tin mining in Cornwall contributed to the introduction of bronze – an alloy of tin and copper – to Britain around 2200 BCE, and ironworking arrived from Europe in 1000 BCE.**

#### ARRIVAL OF IRON-WORKING

Funeral monuments became less grand, with barrows beginning to be replaced from 1500 BCE by cemeteries containing cremations, often in urns. Society became more stratified, with an increase in rich personal ornaments such as arm-rings and spiral torcs of gold, together with new weapons, such as swords and shields, around 1500 BCE. Trade between Britain and Europe grew stronger. Around 1000 BCE knowledge of iron-working also crossed over from Europe, but the British Isles did not really use iron extensively until 800 BCE.

**19** The area in square kilometres (7 square miles) enclosed behind the defensive earthworks of the Iron Age settlement at Colchester.

elites of Iron Age Britain to adopt many of the same political and cultural practices that were found in mainland Europe.

#### Hillforts and fields

From around 400 BCE, many of the earlier Iron Age hillforts were abandoned, but others were rebuilt and developed in more sophisticated fashion. These more complex structures tended to exploit natural features to enhance their defences, and they often had more substantial ramparts.

#### The Battersea Shield

This 1st-century CE bronze shield may have been deposited in the River Thames as a ritual offering. It is decorated with spirals in the La Tène style and is inlaid with red glass, which may have been imported from Italy.



Respect pentru patrimoniul și cartii

Developed hillforts could be very large, covering areas of up to 10 hectares (25 acres). Evidence of storage pits and dwellings at some, including Danebury, suggests that they were permanently occupied and not just used as refuges in times of danger. The huge resources necessary to build and maintain such structures indicate that in this phase of the Iron Age, kings and chieftains exercised great power, although the presence of a large number of hillforts points to the territories that they ruled over being quite small. Not everyone lived in hillforts, though, and other smaller enclosures and open settlements have been found in their vicinity. In eastern England and East Anglia very few hillforts have been identified, and on the Atlantic fringes of Britain, fortified

“The island is thickly populated and it is extremely cold.”

DIODORUS SICULUS, *LIBRARY OF WORLD HISTORY*, 1ST CENTURY BCE

homesteads rather than hillforts made up the main defensive structures.

The division of the land into fields continued through this period and, although there were variations in different parts of Britain, most people derived their sustenance from barley, spelt, or emmer wheat, with cattle providing the bulk of the meat that was consumed. Surprisingly, even in river and coastal areas, fish played a comparatively small role in the British Iron Age diet.

#### The spread of iron-working

Although the techniques of iron-working had reached Britain by about 1000 BCE, it was only around 800 BCE that the metal really came to be more widely used. The greater availability of iron ore compared

#### Horned helmet

This bronze helmet found in the River Thames near Waterloo Bridge dates from the late 1st century BCE. It may well have been made specifically as a votive object, rather than for wearing on the battlefield.

to the tin required for making bronze, aided this spread, and iron axeheads, spears, and tools become more common in archaeological finds dating from around 700 BCE onwards.

The appearance of iron weapons and the number of hillforts has been taken by archaeologists to mean that Iron Age Britain was dominated by the warrior elite, who engaged in frequent minor warfare and raiding. Scattered finds of weapons, and evidence of burning or

Shield, with stylized birds in the central roundel, showed a love of curves and flowing lines, which were essential features of Celtic art of this time.

#### Trade and grave goods

The Iron Age elites also took advantage of increasing trade connections with continental Europe, particularly with regard to luxury goods, which included amber, glass, and coral. The main avenues of trade were across the English Channel to northern Europe and along the Atlantic coastlines as far as Iberia. It is also from this time that the first written accounts of Britain appear, including those by the Greek adventurer, Pytheas of Massilia (Marseilles). He visited the islands in around 320 BCE and called them *Prettania*, a name which, modified into *Britannia* and then Britain, has survived to this day.

Iron Age burials were often surprisingly modest; from around 800 BCE barrows went out of fashion. In some areas, such as Yorkshire, the corpse was placed with the body flexed (the legs bent) and with comparatively few grave goods. Some richer graves included iron swords and spears for the men and jewellery for the women, while a few spectacular graves of the 3rd century BCE contained the remains of chariots. Elsewhere, the normal mode of disposal was excarnation (either leaving the body to be scavenged by wild animals or removing the flesh before burial). By around

As the 2nd century BCE progressed, centres even larger than hillforts began to be built, mirroring developments in Europe. At the same time, international trade in Britain also increased.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPPIDA

Larger centres, called *oppida*, from the Latin word for “town”, were defended by complex earthworks. Some had their own mints for the production of coins. Their permanent populations, however, may not have been large and they occupied a middle ground between hillforts and true towns. The largest *oppida* at Colchester was a royal centre and would later become an important town in the Roman province 28–29 >>

#### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

After a hiatus in trade with Europe between 500 BCE and 150 BCE, new ports were built in the south of England, including Hengistbury Head and Poole Harbour in Dorset. Imported goods including Mediterranean glass, Italian wine, and bronze vessels came through them.

BRONZE DAGGER SHEATH

200 BCE, the population of Britain had probably reached around 2 million, with the landscape studded with larger settlements, including hillforts that might contain a population of 200 or more. Britain's comparative political isolation would soon, however, come to an end, as its growing wealth and overseas trade contacts made it an attractive asset to a potential invader.

destruction at sites such as Danebury, together with the later evidence of writers at the time of the Roman invasions of Britain in the 1st century CE and 1st century CE, tend to confirm this impression. Finds of large cauldrons and cauldron chains at hillfort sites are also suggestive of a society that placed value on feasting, possibly for ritualistic reasons, but also to establish the primacy of the king or chieftain, the feast-giver. In their weaponry too, the Iron Age warriors showed their love of display. Swords of the 3rd century BCE (the weapon had fallen out of fashion in the preceding centuries) showed lavish adornment and intricate curvilinear designs. Much of the decoration shows evidence of the influence of the La Tène cultures of northern Europe. These and the intricate ornamentation on finds, such as the Battersea Shield and the Witham

#### Iron Age broch

From the 6th century BCE, large roundhouse towers known as brochs began to appear in the Scottish Isles. They were part residence and part fort. This one at Mousa in the Shetlands is more than 20m (66ft) high.



## Henry VIII

“One of **the goodliest** men... most amiable, courteous and **benign** in gesture unto all persons.”

CHARLES BLOUNT, BARON MOUNTJOY, ON HIS KING, HENRY VIII

**H**enry VIII is remembered as a grotesque; a bully, a wife-killer even; a vainglorious tyrant prepared to change his subjects' religion so that he could have his own way. The caricature has endured because it is not entirely false – although it fails to do justice to the complexity of a great king.

Henry was not always the bloated, raddled old man he became. He was athletic, artistic, and cultivated in his youth. But he always had an oversized ego, a ruthless streak, and a low cunning.

Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon, contracted just before his coronation in 1509, had been a match made not in heaven, but in the political calculations of his father. The bride had been the wife of Henry's brother Arthur, and when the Prince of Wales died, Henry VII wanted the matrimonial bond renewed to

safeguard the alliance he had with Spain. It was his commitment to the Holy League with Spain that led to Henry VIII's attack on France in 1513, and which in turn sparked a Scottish invasion under the "Auld Alliance" (see pp.138–39). The Scots force was, however, comprehensively defeated at the Battle of Flodden.

### Tough Thomases

Despite his absolutist zeal, Henry's instinct was always to delegate – to a series of strong-minded



Catherine of Aragon

"If not for her sex," said Thomas Cromwell, "she could have defied all the heroes of history." Henry's first wife stood her ground against the King with impressive courage, but could not win.



Anne Boleyn

Henry pursued Anne for several years while still married to his first wife. For all her beauty and intellect, Anne could no more keep her husband than Catherine had been able to. She too failed to give him his male heir.

Portrait of Henry VIII

Hans Holbein the Younger's portrait has forever fixed our impressions of Henry VIII. The bullish aggression was always there, but the bulk was an aspect of age: Henry was graceful and athletic in his youth.



### Cloth of Gold

The meeting place of Henry VIII and King Francis I in 1520 became known as the Field of the Cloth of Gold, due to the magnificence of the tents and pavilions erected.

“The King... conversed for a very long while and familiarly... in good Latin and in French...”

VENETIAN AMBASSADOR ON VISITING HENRY, 1515

Thomas – Wolsey, More, and Cromwell. His chancellors furthered his centralizing agenda. Thomas Wolsey's taxation reforms enriched the Crown while his reforms to the justice system bolstered royal authority at the expense of that of the local lords.

### Power and prestige

A major programme of palace building boosted the prestige of the Crown, though Wolsey in particular almost set himself up as a second king. He built great palaces for himself, at Hampton Court, for example. This was confiscated by the King after Wolsey's

inevitable fall from grace. Henry's own love of display was shown in the Field of the Cloth of Gold (1520). The splendid tents and pavilions he took with him for his meeting outside Calais with Francis I of France announced England's arrival as a major power in Europe.

### Fraught relations

Henry had been chafing under a papal authority he felt extended too far into his temporal sphere when he clashed with Rome over his marriage plans. Exasperated by Catherine's "failure" to produce a male heir, he wanted to marry her maid of honour, Anne Boleyn.

He got his way – overturning the religious settlement of centuries in the process – but having married Anne in 1533, he found this relationship no more fruitful. After three years Anne miscarried a boy. Enraged, he trumped up charges of adultery and incest with her own brother, with whom she had allegedly also been plotting treason. She was tried and executed, freeing Henry to marry his mistress Jane Seymour. She bore him his only son, Edward, but died soon after. The Act of Succession appointed Edward his successor; Catherine's daughter Mary and Anne Boleyn's daughter Elizabeth were both retroactively decreed illegitimate.

Henry then wed Anne of Cleves, but was unhappy from the start. Anne accepted annulment, making way for Catherine Howard, but she (quite genuinely, it seems) was unfaithful to him and was executed just under two years later. Henry finally married Catherine Parr, who was to outlive him.

### TIMELINE

- **28 June 1491** Prince Henry, the second son of King Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, is born.
- **April 1502** Arthur, Prince of Wales, dies, leaving Prince Henry first in line for the English throne.
- **11 June 1509** Henry marries Catherine of Aragon to seal the alliance his father has formed with Spain. He is crowned alongside her at Westminster Abbey on 24 June.
- **1513** Henry invades France in support of his Spanish ally. Wins the Battle of the Spurs (16 August); weeks later on 9 September his army decisively defeats the Scots at Flodden.
- **June 1520** Henry travels to northern France to hold talks with that country's king, Francis I. The Field of the Cloth of Gold becomes the scene for a competition in regal splendour.
- **October 1521** Pope Leo X awards Henry VIII the title of *Fidei Defensor* ("Defender of the Faith") for his writings against Martin Luther's Reformation. The title is held by British monarchs to this day.
- **29 November 1530** Former Chancellor Thomas Wolsey dies in disgrace. Having first made himself indispensable, he had come to be seen as a threat by Henry.
- **25 January 1533** In defiance of Pope Clement VII, Henry marries Anne Boleyn. His own appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, has declared his marriage to Catherine annulled.



### MUSIC WRITTEN FOR HENRY VIII

- **November 1534** Act of Supremacy is passed in Parliament. It makes Henry VIII, as sovereign, "supreme head" of the Church of England.
- **6 July 1535** Sir Thomas More is executed for refusing to renounce Catholicism.
- **19 May 1536** Anne Boleyn is executed for treason and Henry marries Jane Seymour. The Dissolution of the Monasteries begins. The Pilgrimage of Grace – a popular uprising against the reforms – erupts in Yorkshire.
- **24 October 1537** Jane Seymour dies after bearing Henry a son, the future Edward VI.
- **6 January 1540** Henry weds Anne of Cleves, but the marriage is annulled. Thomas Cromwell, who arranged the marriage, is executed.
- **28 July 1540** Henry marries Catherine Howard.
- **15 February 1542** Catherine Howard is executed. The King marries Catherine Parr the following year.
- **15 January 1547** Henry VIII dies, aged 55.



### Jane Seymour

Perhaps Henry's favourite wife, Jane was able to give Henry the son he craved, in October 1537. But the future Edward VI was sickly, and Jane herself died shortly after his christening.



### Anne of Cleves

Henry's fourth wife failed to live up to the portrait her prospective husband had commissioned from Hans Holbein the Younger. The marriage was never consummated, and was soon annulled.



### Catherine Howard

Henry's mistress before her marriage, Catherine was transparently repelled by her husband – now old and obese. It is unclear how far the adultery for which she was executed went beyond flirtation.



### Catherine Parr

A match for Henry in the marriage stakes, queen number six had already been married twice and was a widow when she caught Henry's eye. She outlived the King and went on to marry a fourth time.

# Libris RO

## The Modern Monarchy

**The accession of Elizabeth II to the throne in 1952 was greeted by optimistic admirers of royalty as the start of a second glorious Elizabethan era. With traditional deference in decline, the monarchy experienced a rough ride through the latter half of the 20th century. Its survival into the new millennium showed an impressive ability to adapt to changing times.**

Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were on a safari in Kenya when George VI died on 6 February 1952. The new Queen was a cool, self-possessed, and reticent young woman, with an absolute commitment to her royal duties. The preparations for her coronation revealed that she had a clearer sense of what was expected of a modern monarchy than her advisers. The government and experts on royal protocol had agreed that the televising of the event should stop at the doors of Westminster Abbey. The Queen, however, insisted that the coronation ceremony itself should be televised, so that the moment could be shared with her people.

Held on 2 June 1953, the coronation was a demonstration of the power of archaic ceremony and modern technology. Three million people lined the streets in the rain to see Elizabeth pass by in her fairy-tale coach, while

more than 20 million watched on televisions, with neighbours crowding the front rooms of those lucky enough to possess a set. The event was a spectacular costume drama, with lords in ermine and coronets, bishops in copes, and Prime Minister Winston Churchill bizarrely garbed as the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

The public loved it all, and left-wing intellectuals, who had hoped the working class would scorn at such royalist nonsense, were confounded.

Elizabeth grasped the need for a modern monarch to be seen by the people very early in her reign. Soon after the coronation, she embarked on a round-the-world tour during which she became the first reigning monarch to visit Australia and New Zealand. This trip was the first of many royal visits to the Commonwealth countries. They were conscious attempts to foster a popular sentiment of loyalty among former

colonies, the Queen's status as head of state being the only surviving political link between the now fully independent countries. At home, the Queen gave her first televised Christmas speech in 1957 – the royal Christmas broadcast on radio was a long-established tradition. Her manner was impeccably bland – the lack of evident personality or opinion suited the role of a constitutional figurehead.

### Family troubles

As at the time of the abdication of King Edward VIII in 1936, the troubles of the modern monarchy came from

### The young monarch

Queen Elizabeth II was 27 years old at the time of her coronation in June 1953. The traditional regalia of the monarchy, such as the orb and sceptre, were deployed during the ceremony.

## BEFORE

Albert, Duke of York, acceded to the throne in December 1936 after the abdication of his elder brother, Edward VIII << 344–45. He took the regal name George VI.

### KING GEORGE VI

King George VI was a shy and inhibited man, who suffered from a speech impediment that, although partly cured by therapy, made public speaking a trial for him and for his listeners. He had none of the glamour of his brother Edward, but he had a strong sense of duty. He followed the example of his father George V in reigning as an impeccable constitutional monarch. During the war he stayed in residence with his family at Buckingham Palace throughout the German bombing. His visits to bomb-damaged streets and munitions factories won him respect and affection.

### ELIZABETH'S EARLY YEARS

George VI's eldest daughter Elizabeth joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) towards the end of the war, driving lorries. With her sister Margaret, she mingled with celebrating crowds in London on VE Day in 1945. Two years later she married Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark, who was granted the title of Duke of Edinburgh.





#### Coronation souvenir

A gold-lustre earthenware teapot in the shape of the royal coach was one among many souvenirs of the coronation. The image of Elizabeth on the coach recalls her war service in the ATS.

the collision between the demands of private life and public role. Elizabeth herself, like her father and grandfather, seemed immune to this conflict; her

“Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall **strive to be worthy of your trust.**”

QUEEN ELIZABETH II, RADIO BROADCAST, 2 JUNE 1953

personal life was erased by the demands of royal duty. But members of her family were not. The first crisis of the modern monarchy concerned Elizabeth's sister, Princess Margaret. She wished to marry Group Captain Peter Townsend, who was divorced. The government, the Church of England, and the rest of the royal family were united in opposition to the marriage, and in 1955 Margaret called it off. She was not reconciled, however, to a life of duty. She married photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones in 1960,

for divorce, the royals were subjected to investigation of their private lives, personal attacks, and caricature. Such disrepute of the monarchy had not been seen in Britain since the Regency scandals of the early 19th century.

The extraordinary outpouring of grief that followed Diana's death in a car crash on 31 August 1997 developed a distinct anti-monarchist edge. The Queen's lifelong reticence and reliance upon formal protocol played badly with the public in the grip of heightened emotion. Realizing that she needed to



#### Head of the Commonwealth

The Queen appears on an Australian postage stamp from the 1960s. Elizabeth takes her role as head of the Commonwealth most seriously, frequently visiting Commonwealth countries.

**16** The number of independent countries of which the Queen is head of state, the largest being Britain, Canada, and Australia. The 16 countries have a combined population of about 130 million.

drifted into a number of affairs, and finally divorced in 1978. This was a foretaste of much to come.

In the early years of Elizabeth's reign the media was respectful and protective towards the royal family. A rare criticism of the Queen's manner of speaking – an article in 1957 that described her as having the manner of a “priggish schoolgirl” – was greeted with united outrage by the press. From the 1960s, this deference progressively eroded and was slowly abandoned, but this change was slow to have effect.

The success of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 demonstrated the nation continued readiness to celebrate the monarchy – even if the Sex Pistols' ironic punk anthem *God Save the Queen* topped the charts. The marriage of Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, and Lady Diana Spencer

in 1981 was, like the coronation, a romantic spectacle for the vast majority of the population. By the early 1990s, the messy disintegration of Charles and Diana's union, accompanied by detailed revelations of adultery by both parties, seriously undermined royalist sentiment. With the marriages of two of Elizabeth's other children, Princess Anne and Prince Andrew, also heading



#### Remembering Diana

Thousands of bouquets, cards, and other tributes were left outside Kensington Palace by mourners after Princess Diana's death in August 1997. The Queen was criticized by many of Diana's admirers for her cool public response to the death.

portray a less aloof image, Elizabeth was soon seen chatting with her people on carefully stage-managed visits to pubs and council flats, while the media were offered behind-the-scenes access to life at Buckingham Palace.

#### Present-day monarchy

The popularity of the royal family was restored, based not on reverence, but on acceptance of the royals as both ordinary human beings and celebrities. In Australia, a referendum to make the country a republic was defeated in 1999, while in Britain, the abolition of the monarchy never became a serious proposition. In 2012, the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession was celebrated throughout the Commonwealth.

“It's vital that the monarchy **keeps in touch with the people.** It's what I try and do.”

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES

#### AFTER

In the first decade of the 21st century, the royal family entered a relatively tranquil phase after the troubles of the 1990s, with the new generation taking centre stage.

#### ROYAL WEDDINGS

Prince Charles, himself divorced and widowed, married the divorcee Camilla Parker Bowles in a civil wedding in 2005. The **ending of resistance to divorce** on the part of the Church of England and the Establishment in general enabled the marriage to take place without Charles renouncing his right to inherit the throne.








Prince William and Prince Harry, Charles' sons from his marriage with Princess Diana, continued the royal family's **tradition of service** in the armed forces. In 2010, William announced his plans to marry Kate Middleton. Their **wedding in 2011** attracted a favourable public and media response. On their wedding day, the Queen gave the couple the titles Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. On 22 July 2013 they celebrated the **birth of their first child**, Prince George of Cambridge, in London.

#### THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE ON THEIR WEDDING DAY



# MODERN TIMES

## 1914-PRESENT

1914-18	1919-38	1939-45
	<p><b>28 JUNE 1919</b> The Treaty of Versailles is signed, imposing peace terms on Germany.</p> <p><b>1919-22</b> Anglo-Irish War leads to the partition of Ireland between the independent Irish Free State and Northern Ireland.</p>	 <p><b>6 JUNE 1944</b> Allied troops invade Normandy in the D-day landing.</p> <p><b>8 MAY 1945</b> Germany surrenders; VE Day is celebrated in London.</p> <p>« A child's gas mask</p>
<p><b>4 AUGUST 1914</b> Britain declares war on Germany.</p> <p><b>23 AUGUST 1914</b> The British Expeditionary Force fights its first battle with the Germans at Mons.</p>	<p>« British 6-in howitzer gun</p> <p><b>1 JULY 1916</b> The Somme offensive is launched in France; almost 20,000 British soldiers are killed in a day.</p> <p><b>7 DECEMBER 1916</b> David Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister.</p> <p>» King Edward VIII</p>	<p><b>3 SEPTEMBER 1939</b> Britain declares war on Germany.</p> <p><b>10 MAY 1940</b> Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister, forming a coalition government.</p> <p><b>MAY-JUNE 1940</b> The British Expeditionary Force is evacuated from Dunkirk.</p>
	<p><b>24 JANUARY 1924</b> Ramsay MacDonald forms the first Labour government.</p> <p><b>3-12 MAY 1926</b> General strike brings Britain to a standstill.</p> <p><b>DECEMBER 1930</b> Unemployment in Britain tops 2.5 million.</p>	<p><b>26 JULY 1945</b> Churchill is defeated in a general election; Labour wins a landslide victory.</p>  <p>» H25 Mk IIc radar</p>
<p><b>25 APRIL 1915</b> British and ANZAC troops land at Gallipoli, Turkey.</p> <p><b>7 MAY 1915</b> The ocean liner <i>Lusitania</i> is sunk by a German U-boat.</p> <p><b>31 MAY 1915</b> London is bombed by a German airship for the first time.</p>	<p>« British war graves in Somme, France</p> <p><b>JULY-NOVEMBER 1917</b> The Battle of Passchendaele is fought in Flanders, Belgium.</p>  <p>» Dance troupe</p>	<p><b>10 DECEMBER 1936</b> Edward VIII abdicates to marry divorcee Wallis Simpson.</p> <p><b>SEPTEMBER 1938</b> Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain averts war with Germany in the Munich Crisis.</p> <p>» Gandhi in London</p>
<p><b>24 APRIL 1916</b> Irish republicans stage the Easter Rising in Dublin.</p> <p><b>31 MAY-1 JUNE 1916</b> The British and German fleets clash at the Battle of Jutland.</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY 1918</b> The Representation of the People Act gives women over 30 years the right to vote.</p> <p><b>11 NOVEMBER 1918</b> An armistice ends the fighting in World War I.</p> <p><b>AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1931</b> Economic crisis leads to formation of a National Government.</p> <p><b>SEPTEMBER 1931</b> Indian Congress leader MK Gandhi comes to Britain for a Round Table Conference.</p> 	<p><b>23 OCTOBER-5 NOVEMBER 1942</b> General Bernard Montgomery's Eighth Army defeats Axis forces in the Desert War at El Alamein.</p>  <p>» World War II poster</p>

“Let us therefore, so bear ourselves that if the **British Empire** and its **Commonwealth** last for a thousand years, men will still say, ‘This was **their finest hour**’.”

WINSTON CHURCHILL, 18 JUNE 1940

1946–69		1970–89		1990–2010	
		<p><b>19 JUNE 1970</b> Ted Heath becomes Prime Minister after a surprise Conservative election victory.</p> <p><b>1972</b> The Troubles in Northern Ireland are at their peak, causing 476 deaths in a year.</p> <p>» Later mural</p>			
<p><b>15 AUGUST 1947</b> Britain grants independence to India and Pakistan.</p> <p><b>22 JUNE 1948</b> West Indian immigrants arrive in Britain on board Empire Windrush.</p>		<p><b>OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 1956</b> The Suez Crisis; an Anglo-French invasion of Egypt fails.</p> <p><b>3 FEBRUARY 1960</b> Harold Macmillan's 'Winds of Change' speech announces Britain's intention to withdraw from its African colonies.</p>		<p><b>MARCH 1984–MARCH 1985</b> A miners' strike is defeated by tough government action, ending the era of trade union power.</p> <p><b>12 OCTOBER 1984</b> Thatcher narrowly escapes assassination by an IRA bomb in a Brighton hotel.</p> <p>» British troops in Iraq, 2006</p>	
<p><b>5 JULY 1948</b> The National Health Service is founded.</p> <p><b>1950–53</b> British troops fight in the Korean War.</p>		<p><b>22 JANUARY 1972</b> Britain joins the European Economic Community.</p> <p><b>28 FEBRUARY 1974</b> Heath is defeated in an election after declaring a "three-day week" to face down a miners' strike.</p>			
<p><b>10 APRIL 1998</b> The Good Friday agreement provides for power-sharing between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland.</p> <p><b>1 JULY 1999</b> The devolved Scottish Parliament is opened.</p>		<p><b>7 JULY 2005</b> Suicide bombers kill more than 50 people in attacks in London.</p> 		<p><b>6 MAY 1994</b> The Channel Tunnel link with France is inaugurated.</p> <p><b>2 MAY 1997</b> Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister after a landslide Labour victory.</p> <p><b>14 SEPTEMBER 2007</b> The Bank of England bails out Northern Rock bank, signalling the start of a major financial crisis.</p> <p><b>11 MAY 2010</b> David Cameron becomes Prime Minister at the head of a Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government.</p>	
<p><b>3 OCTOBER 1952</b> Britain tests its first atom bomb.</p> <p><b>2 JUNE 1953</b> The coronation of Elizabeth II takes place.</p>		<p><b>JULY 1975</b> Annual inflation in Britain reaches 26 per cent.</p> <p><b>JANUARY–FEBRUARY 1979</b> Widespread strikes undermine James Callaghan's Labour government in what is known as the Winter of Discontent.</p> <p>» Women's liberation</p>		<p><b>10 APRIL 1998</b> The Good Friday agreement provides for power-sharing between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland.</p> <p><b>29 APRIL 2011</b> Prince William marries Catherine Middleton in Westminster Abbey.</p> <p><b>27 JULY 2012</b> Athletes from across the world converge on London for the 2012 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.</p>	
<p><b>30 JULY 1966</b> England's football team wins the World Cup.</p> <p><b>14 AUGUST 1969</b> British troops are deployed in cities in Northern Ireland to halt rioting.</p>		<p><b>4 MAY 1979</b> Margaret Thatcher is elected Britain's first woman prime minister.</p> <p><b>APRIL–JUNE 1982</b> Britain fights Argentina in the Falklands War.</p>		<p><b>NOVEMBER 1984</b> The sale of British Telecom begins the privatization of major nationalized industries.</p> <p><b>11 JUNE 1987</b> Thatcher wins a third consecutive general election victory.</p> <p>» London skyline</p> 	



LONDON, NEW YORK, MELBOURNE,  
MUNICH, AND DELHI

**CONTRIBUTORS**

R.G. Grant, Ann Kay, Michael Kerrigan, Philip Parker

**EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS**

Sir Barry Cunliffe, Eric Evans, Kenneth Morgan, Miri Rubin

**DORLING KINDERSLEY**

**Senior Art Editor** Edward Kinsey  
**Senior Editor** Pip Morgan

**Jacket Designer** Silke Spingies  
**Project Editors** Nicola Hodgson, Peter Preston

**Cartographers** Ed Merritt, Simon Mumford  
**Picture Researcher** Karen VanRoss

**Production Controller** Erika Pepe  
**Production Editor** Tony Phipps

**Managing Art Editor** Owen Peyton Jones  
**Managing Editor** Julie Ferris

**Art Director** Philip Ormerod  
**Associate Publisher** Liz Wheeler

**Reference Publisher** Jonathan Metcalf

**DORLING KINDERSLEY INDIA**

**Managing Art Editor** Ashita Murgai  
**Managing Editor** Rohan Sinha

**Consultant Art Director** Shefali Upadhyay  
**Production Manager** Pankaj Sharma

**Project Designer** Amit Malhotra  
**Project Editor** Alka Ranjan

**Designers** Kaberi Hazarika, Mansi Nagdev, Zaurin Thoidingjam, Shreya Anand Virmani  
**Editors** Brishiti Bandyopadhyaya, Shatarupa Chaudhuri, Sudeshna Dasgupta, Dharini, Rahul Ganguly, Bincy Mathew, Karishma Walia

**Assistant Art Editor** Mini Dhanwan  
**DTP Manager** Balwant Singh

**Picture Researcher** Sakshi Saluja  
**DTP Designers** Neeraj Bhatia, Arjinder Singh, Jagtar Singh, Bimlesh Tiwary

First published in Great Britain in 2011 by  
Dorling Kindersley Limited,  
80 Strand, London, WC2R 0RL

Penguin Group (UK)  
2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

001 – 196339 – Jan 2014

Copyright © 2011, 2014 Dorling Kindersley Limited, London

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

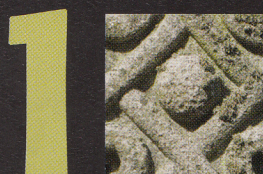
A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978 1 4093 4626 5

Printed and bound in China by South China Printing Co

Discover more at  
[www.dk.com](http://www.dk.com)

# CONTENTS



## BRITONS AND INVADERS UP TO 1066

### Introduction

### Timeline

### Britain's First People

Arrival of first human-like species in Britain and colonization by modern humans around 15,000 years ago.

### Stone Age Britain

Settlers build stone monuments and agriculture develops.

### STONEHENGE

### Iron Age Britain

Warrior elites in hill-forts dominate Britain, maintaining strong links with Europe and producing art of great beauty.

### Caesar's Invasion

Julius Caesar establishes treaty relations with British tribes, drawing Britain into the orbit of Roman political ambitions.

### Conquest and Resistance

The Romans, under Emperor Claudius, conquer much of Britain, despite bitter resistance in Wales and the north of England.

### HADRIAN'S WALL

### A Distant Province

Much of Roman Britain prospers as towns grow and roads encourage trade and communication.

### Outside the Empire

By the 5th century, communities in Ireland and remote parts of Scotland lay the foundations of independent kingdoms.

### Life in Roman Britain

Rome profoundly affects British life with its military organization, urban lifestyle, new religious beliefs, and novel foods.

### End of Empire

In 410 CE, Roman rule over Britain comes to an end, leaving Britain exposed and at the mercy of Germanic barbarians.

### THE SUTTON HOO SHIP BURIAL

### Holy Ireland

8 Rapid growth in Ireland's Christian Church in the 5th century, as abbots of the main monasteries become powerful and send missionaries abroad.

### Anglo-Saxon Rulers

14 Between the 5th and 8th centuries, Anglo-Saxon invaders establish the powerful kingdoms of Mercia, Northumbria, and Wessex.

### FRANKS CASKET

### Christian England

18 Missionaries sent by Pope Gregory I convert Anglo-Saxons to Christianity, transforming England into a vibrant and thriving Christian culture, largely based in monasteries.

### Viking Raiders and Settlers

20 Anglo-Saxon kingdoms succumb to Viking raiders, armies, and settlers, leaving Wessex to stand alone, weak and beleaguered.

### BOOK OF KELLS

### ALFRED THE GREAT

### Wessex Takes the Lead

24 In the 10th century, several able kings of Wessex progressively conquer Viking-held areas of England, uniting the country as far north as the border with Scotland, and becoming kings of the English.

### Ireland in the Viking Age

28 From their port-enclaves in Ireland, the Vikings, without conquering the country, play a major role in shaping Irish culture.

### Triumph of the Danes

30 At the turn of the first millennium, the Danes successfully invade England and take over the throne for a quarter of a century.



## Independent Realms

In the 9th and 10th centuries, Scotland is more successful than Wales at achieving unity and independence from England.

## King Edward's World

Edward the Confessor struggles to contain the country's internal tensions.

# 2



## MEDIEVAL BRITAIN 1066–1485

### Introduction

### Timeline

### Norman Conquest

William the Conqueror installs an Anglo-Norman rule, introduces a feudal society, and reshapes England.

### BATTLE OF HASTINGS

### Norman Realm

Henry I's reign manages to establish the institutional bureaucracy that realizes the Norman kings' desire to dominate their new realm.

### DOMESDAY BOOK

### Reign of a Powerful King

King Henry II fights the Church and his sons, conquers Ireland, and reforms the English legal system.

### MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL

### Invasion of Ireland

Irish infighting opens the way for Henry II to move in and establish English rule over Ireland.

### England in the Crusades

Richard I and other kings of England embark on a series of crusades, as they heed papal calls to regain Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

### 58 Challenging Royal Authority

Royal concessions to the barons of England lead to a Parliament that has to approve any new taxes the monarch wishes to levy.

### 60 MAGNA CARTA

### A Prosperous Realm

In the 12th and 13th centuries, England prospers, which improves the social and economic life of some of the people.

### Subduing Wales

The powerful princes of Gwynedd try to create an independent Wales, but Edward I subdues them.

### Scotland's Independence Struggle

Led by Edward I, an English invasion to crush the Scots ends in failure as Robert the Bruce and his army expel the occupiers.

### BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN

### Hundred Years' War Begins

The English and the French fight over the throne of France, starting a series of costly wars that will last more than a century.

### 68 Knights and Bowmen

During the medieval period, advances in infantry warfare throw a challenge to the central role of heavily armoured cavalry.

### BATTLE OF CRÉCY

### The Black Death

A deadly infection wipes out half of the population within a year, causing profound social changes.

### 74 The Peasants' Revolt

A heavy poll tax causes many people to rebel against king and government, but the killing of the rebel leaders brings the revolt to an end.

### LUTTRELL PSALTER

### Religious Enthusiasm

Monasteries and pilgrimage play a major role in English life, though religious reformers are brutally suppressed.

### 82 Poets of the People

Geoffrey Chaucer pioneers vernacular writing in a form of English, poetically revealing everyday contemporary life in his *Canterbury Tales*.

### 84 ELY CATHEDRAL

### Change of Dynasty

As Richard II is deposed, a new Lancastrian dynasty under Henry IV lays the seeds of a conflict that would burst into civil war.

### 86

### 88 Invasion and Revolt

In the 15th century, Scotland proves to be far more troublesome for England than Wales, except for the revolt of Owain Glyndwr.

### 90 The Later Hundred Years' War

Henry V's bid for the French throne almost succeeds after Agincourt, but a French revival sees the English kings lose almost all their lands in France.

### 92

### Merchants and Guilds

Craftsmen and tradesmen form guilds in British cities and towns during the prosperous but sometimes turbulent 15th century.

### 94

### 96 The Wars of the Roses

The houses of Lancaster and York embark on a long period of civil strife as they fight bitterly for the throne of England.

### 98 MEDIEVAL WEAPONS

### 100

### 102

### 104

## TUDORS AND STUARTS

### 1485–1688

### Introduction

### Timeline

### 110 The Early Tudors

Henry Tudor centralizes the state and concentrates power on the monarchy, an enduring legacy he passes on to his successors.

### 112 HENRY VIII

### 114 Religious Upheaval

The Protestant Reformation of the Church radically changes the lives of the British people, both religiously and culturally. The spirit of theological self-reliance changes the political landscape as well.

### 116

### 116 Scottish Troubles

The tragic life of Mary, Queen of Scots, epitomizes the dangers Scottish power struggles posed to the English monarchy.

### 118

### English Society under the Tudors

The country prospers as trade and agriculture flourish, but in the rapidly expanding cities hunger and crime stalk the streets.

### 120

### TUDOR LIFE

### Sailors and Privateers

Inspired by the skill and daring of several English seafarers, the Royal Navy is founded and British naval power expands with a renewed spirit of exploration and discovery.

### 124 The War with Spain

England battles remorselessly with her Spanish foe, finally overcoming its fearful shadow and ushering in a golden age.

### THE DEFEAT OF THE SPANISH ARMADA

### The English Renaissance

Arts and philosophy flourish, with great theatre, wonderful music, evocative poetry, striking Tudor portraits, and far-reaching humanist thinking.

### WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

### Conquest and Plantation

English power savagely puts down several fierce revolts in Ireland, followed by colonization and settlement in the north of the country, which sets the stage for future conflicts.

### 130 The Union of the Crowns

James I's accession effectively unites the kingdoms of Great Britain under the rule of a Scottish dynasty, the House of Stuart.

### THE GUNPOWDER PLOT



**Colonial Expansion** 162

English colonists gradually establish settlements along much of North America's eastern seaboard and on many islands of the Caribbean.

■ **LONDON AND THE RIVER THAMES** 164

**Charles I and Parliament** 166

Political turbulence unsettles the country as an absolutist King collides with an increasingly confident Parliament.

**The Civil War** 168

Desperate terror, death, and suffering sweep across the country as rival supporters of the King and Parliament fight a vicious war that eventually divides the entire British Isles.

■ **THE EXECUTION OF THE KING** 170

**The Commonwealth** 172

As the country ceases to be a kingdom, many start to build a better society while others feel excluded by the righteousness of the new elite.

**Scotland and Ireland Subdued** 174

Scotland and Ireland are drawn into the life-and-death struggle of the English Civil War, bringing their destinies closer together.

**The Restoration** 176

The monarchy is restored, bringing fashion, fun, and colour at first, then the King starts to revert to his father's old absolutist ways.

**Commerce and War** 178

As the world enters a new and more dangerous age, successive governments of England are prepared to fight for their commercial interests.

**Pepys's London** 180

Samuel Pepys vividly records the political gossip, pioneering ideas, and cultural pursuits of Britain's global commercial centre.

■ **THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON** 182

**Enquiring Minds** 184

Modern science is born as new institutions and scholars champion reasoned knowledge and experimental methodology.

■ **ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL** 186

**The Glorious Revolution** 188

Parliamentary democracy succeeds in overthrowing James II, preventing the King's despotic attempts to shape the religious beliefs of the nation.

## 4



## RISE OF POWER 1688–1815

**Introduction**

**Timeline**

**Succession Wars**

Rival Protestant and Catholic factions fight each other in Ireland and then engage in wars of supremacy that spread across Europe.

■ **TREATY OF UNION** 198

**The House of Hanover**

A German dynasty succeeds to the British throne and rules over a people whose patriotism is increasingly linked to the Protestant cause.

**Scottish Jacobites**

Jacobite rebellions in Scotland by Catholic Stuarts rock the Protestant Hanoverian state.

■ **BATTLE OF CULLODEN** 204

**Politics and Prime Ministers**

Robert Walpole and William Pitt the Younger use their new position to transform British politics.

**Power of the Pen**

New tracts, journals, and newspapers dissect every aspect of British politics, manners, and thought.

**Commercial Expansion**

The Royal Navy gives protection to seaborne trade, while the slave trade flourishes from English ports such as Bristol and Liverpool.

**Colonial Conquests**

The Seven Years' War gives Britain control of Canada, while the East India Company begins the gradual British takeover of India.

**America is Lost** 214

The 13 colonies of America rebel against Britain, which fails to suppress the rebellion in a costly and prolonged war.

■ **SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN** 216

**Georgian Society**

In the 18th century, the better-off worked, played, shopped – and revelled in the social season.

■ **LANDED GENTRY** 220

**Disorder and Religious Revival**

Social turmoil brings crime and disorder to many English cities, causing thousands to turn to religion for help and guidance.

**Scottish Enlightenment** 224

Edinburgh becomes a centre for a flourishing intellectual, scientific, and artistic life.

**New Horizons in the Pacific** 226

Voyages of exploration bring many scientific and geographical discoveries, and help to extend Britain's imperial horizons.

■ **GEORGIAN TRADE** 230

**Modernizing Agriculture**

Parliamentary enclosures and landowners seeking increased productivity transform British agriculture.

**Inventors and Entrepreneurs**

Invention and entrepreneurship enable the Industrial Revolution to transform the British landscape, social assumptions, and sense of identity.

**The Anti-slavery Movement** 234

The campaign to abolish slavery gradually succeeds despite powerful vested interests.

**Reaction to the Revolution**

The British establishment worries that the revolution in France will cross the Channel and undermine its tradition and the rule of law.

**Rebellion in Ireland**

Inspired by the French Revolution, the Irish people rise up against the British, but face defeat.

**Napoleonic Wars**

Britain, with other European countries, attempt to control the vaunting ambition of Napoleon Bonaparte, the "Little Corporal".

■ **ADMIRAL NELSON** 242

**The War of 1812**

Land and sea battles between the United States and Britain end inconclusively for both sides.

■ **BATTLE OF WATERLOO** 246

## 5



## INDUSTRY AND EMPIRE 1815–1914

**Introduction**

**Timeline**

**The Regency**

Celebrated for its fashions, art, and architecture the Regency and reign of George IV had political and social repercussions.

■ **BRIGHTON PAVILION** 230

**Steam and Speed**

In 19th-century Britain, the unquenchable quest for speed creates locomotives and ships that broaden everyone's horizons.

■ **ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL** 232

■ **ROYAL ALBERT BRIDGE** 234

**Years of Change**

The Industrial Revolution brings new ways of working that alter everything from timekeeping and housing to family dynamics and class relations.

**The Irish Famine**

A potato-destroying fungus causes a widespread famine in Ireland, which the authorities do little to alleviate – yet a million people die.

**The Triumph of Reform**

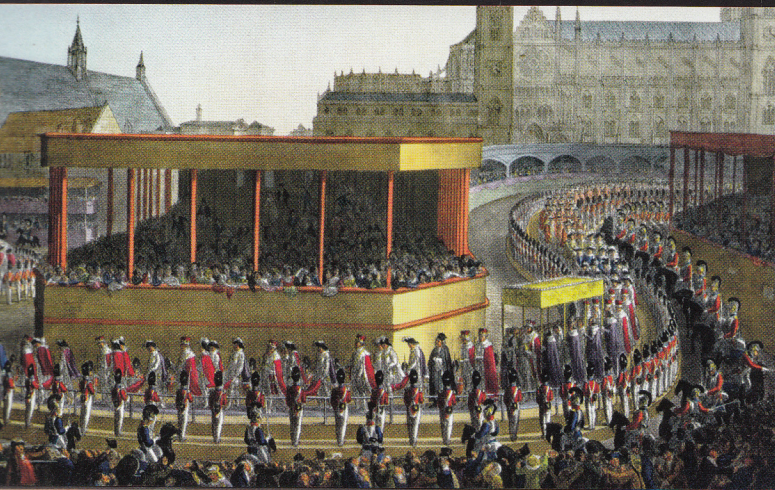
As Britain's economy booms, profound reforms take place to improve the fairness of the way governments are elected and society is run.

■ **QUEEN VICTORIA** 242

■ **THE GREAT EXHIBITION** 244

**The Crimean War**

War with Russia dents Britain's self-confidence and questions its competence, while newspapermen have a field day at the front.



**Workshop of the World** 276  
Britain becomes the world's first industrial power, successfully manufacturing a range of goods for international markets.

**Victorian Values** 278  
Britain's expanding middle class espouse hard work, progress, self-improvement, and a high moral tone.

**VICTORIAN ENTERTAINMENT**

**Cultural Conflict** 282  
Currents of dissent unsettle British self-confidence, with new cultural, religious, and artistic ideas that challenge the status quo.

**VICTORIAN WORKHOUSE** 284

**Exploring the World** 286  
British explorers and missionaries venture into many corners of the world, including the dark heart of Africa, the blazing heat of Australia, and the icy poles.

**CHARLES DARWIN** 288

**British India** 290  
Britain gradually takes over of the Indian subcontinent and the Indian Raj becomes the country's jewel in the crown.

**INDIAN MUTINY** 292

**Dominions and Emigrants** 294  
The white colonies in Canada, New Zealand, and Australia develop as self-governing dominions, attracting many emigrants from Britain.

**Imperialist Muscle** 296  
Britain's bellicose imperialism triggers wars against the Chinese, Zulu, and Ashanti.

**RAILWAY STATION**

**Irish Home Rule** 300  
As Parnell and Gladstone try to get Home Rule legislation through Parliament, the Fenians and Invincibles resort to terrorism.

**The Boer War** 302  
South Africa plunges into a bitter guerrilla war in which a much-relieved Britain defeats the Boers.


**The Edwardian Age** 304  
A brief age of extravagance and elegance witnesses a range of modern novelties, from motorcars and tabloid newspapers to aeroplanes and cinemas.

**SINKING OF THE TITANIC** 306

**The Suffragettes** 308  
Parliament's failure to give women voting rights propels them into a campaign of demonstrations and escalating direct action.

**Trade Unionists and Socialists** 310  
Political radicals voice the concerns of the working classes, organizing their collective strength.

**The Road to War** 312  
Despite Britain's economic leadership and imperial authority, the rise of German power casts a long shadow of war over the country.

**6** 

**MODERN TIMES**  
1914–present

**Introduction** 314

**Timeline** 316

**Britain Enters the Great War** 318  
The war that would be "over by Christmas" becomes a terrifying stalemate of pointless trench warfare and a merciless war of attrition.

**Victory through Slaughter** 320  
With patriotism, courage, and stoical endurance, troops from Britain and its allies finally triumph over their German foes, but victory comes at the cost of almost a million lives.

**FIRST DAY OF THE SOMME** 322

**The Home Front** 324  
Propaganda and censorship force British citizens to support the war, yet the social solidarity helps to make the country more democratic.

**WAR GRAVES** 328

**Peace and After** 330  
The enormous human cost of victory and the difficult path to a durable peace casts a long shadow over the disillusioned people of Britain.

**Irish independence** 332  
Southern Ireland finally gains independence from Britain as the island is partitioned, with Northern Ireland receiving Home Rule.

**Crisis and Depression** 334  
Britain experiences the decline of Victorian industries, a general strike, a worldwide depression, financial crisis, and mass unemployment.

**THE JARROW MARCH** 336

**Life in the Twenties and Thirties** 338  
Despite the misery of unemployment, many Britons enjoy picture palaces, dance halls, and the wireless, and some even buy homes and cars.

**DOMESTIC APPLIANCES** 340

**Imperial Issues** 342  
The British Empire reaches its greatest extent, yet it is challenged by a vigorous independence movement in India led by Gandhi.

**The Abdication of Edward VIII** 344  
A constitutional crisis is averted when King Edward VIII abdicates, choosing love and exile over the throne.

**Slide to War** 346  
Britain tries to appease Hitler's aggressive Nazi regime, but in the end war becomes inevitable.

**Britain Alone** 348  
Britain finds itself alone in Europe as it upholds the cause of freedom and survives through epic endurance, loyally supported by its Commonwealth.

**WINSTON CHURCHILL** 350

**THE BLITZ** 352

**Life in Wartime Britain** 354  
During the war, Britons endure rationing, air raids, flying bombs, American GIs, evacuation, and an all-controlling government.

**THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN** 356

**An Allied Victory** 358  
Britain's alliance with the United States and the Soviet Union triumphs over Germany and Japan, but the war exhausts the nation's resources.

**The Post-war Years** 360  
In 1945 the newly elected Labour government starts to rebuild a country devastated by war and creates a welfare state.

**The Modern Monarchy** 362  
Queen Elizabeth II's reign is long and stable, yet witnesses great changes in the world and in the country's attitudes to the monarchy.

**Retreat from Empire** 364  
Britain all but ceases to be a colonial power and its Commonwealth is an international organization of limited practical importance.

**THE SUEZ CRISIS** 366

**The Cold War** 368  
Britain lives with the risk of nuclear annihilation as it joins America in a Cold War confrontation with the Soviet Union.

**Never Had it so Good** 370  
Britons buy houses and splash out on cars, TVs, and other consumer goods as their rising wages bring security and prosperity.

**Britain Goes Pop** 372  
Britain loses its stuffy image in the Swinging Sixties with the flowering of popular culture, fashion and music, stylish art, and loose morals.

**BEATLEMANIA** 374

**Conflict in Society** 376  
Social and political conflicts dominate the 1970s and 1980s as Britain experiences high inflation and rising unemployment.

**Troubles in Northern Ireland** 378  
IRA terror and the presence of British troops on the streets of Ulster fuels a bitter sectarianism and a collapse of law and order.

**Turn to the Right** 380  
Party politics assumes a more right-wing identity in Thatcher's Britain as wealth and enterprise replace the belief in solidarity and security.

**MARGARET THATCHER** 382

**Wars in Peacetime** 384  
Britain defends the Falklands, British aircraft bomb Serbia, and the country's forces join the United States in waging wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

**Facing the Future** 386  
Globalization, Europe, and financial meltdown are key concerns in Britain's future.

**Monarchs and Rulers** 388

**Index and Acknowledgments** 390

