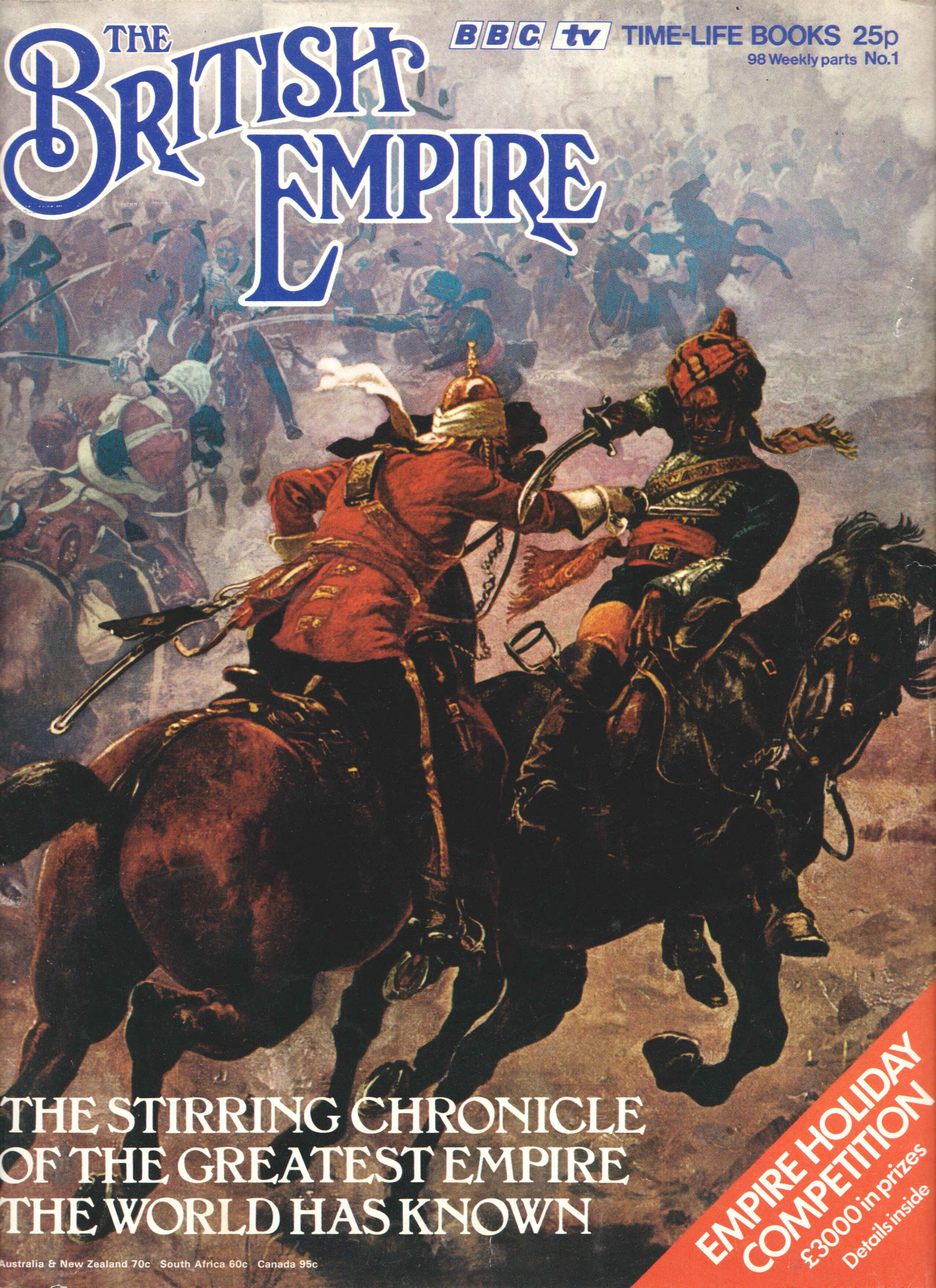


# THE BRITISH EMPIRE

BBC tv

TIME-LIFE BOOKS 25p  
98 Weekly parts No.1



THE STIRRING CHRONICLE  
OF THE GREATEST EMPIRE  
THE WORLD HAS KNOWN

**EMPIRE HOLIDAY  
COMPETITION**  
£3000 in prizes  
Details inside

# A preview of what's to come

**THE BRITISH EMPIRE** is the story of the greatest Empire the world has ever known. It is a story of brilliant contrasts – of glory and disaster, of wise rule and brutal oppression: a story that shows what the British took from the world – and what they gave to it.

## Spain goes under

The Empire's first magnificent era dawned with the exploits of Elizabeth I's daredevil explorers. These were the men who charted the icy wastes of the Arctic, braved Indian deserts on foot and voyaged south to hurl their challenges into the haughty face of Catholic Spain – Spain, which still claimed half the world as her own by God-given right. Spain trembled – the tubby, red-bearded Cornishman, Francis Drake, was so feared by the Spaniards that they nicknamed him "El Draque," the Dragon.

Drake's bravado is still a part of legend: when the massive galleons of the Spanish Armada heaved into sight, he coolly finished his game of bowls before commencing battle. A legend perhaps – but it typified the spirit of the time, a spirit that, after the Spanish defeat, drove colonists and merchants to America, India, Africa and the Far East in search of fabled treasures.

## Profits and power-struggles

Such towering ambition and greed has its evil sides: you'll see how the traders of the East India Company, dazzled by the wealth of the Mughal Empire, made fortunes out of hapless Indians. You will read one of history's grisliest episodes – how sadistic, profit-hungry captains crammed the fetid, airless holds of their ships with African slaves for sale across the Atlantic.

In the three centuries of this trade, more than 3,000,000 negroes died, many of them in British vessels. You will have an opportunity to read a unique and moving account by a slave of his own capture and transportation.

You will trace Britain's great power struggle with France, a struggle which reverberated across the world. In America James Wolfe led an army up a slippery cliff path to seize Canada for Britain. In India, it was a pro-French Rajah who squeezed 123 Englishmen into a sweltering 18-foot-square dungeon in Calcutta and let most of them suffocate. And did you

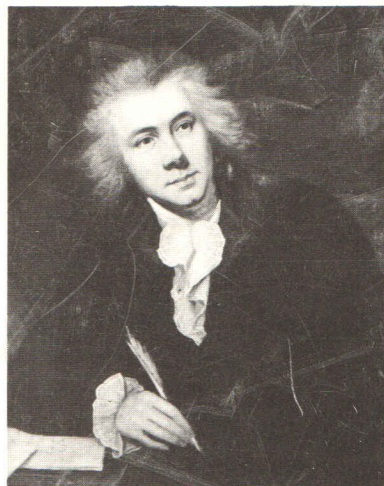


Punished slave



16th-Century English galleon

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich (detail)



William Wilberforce

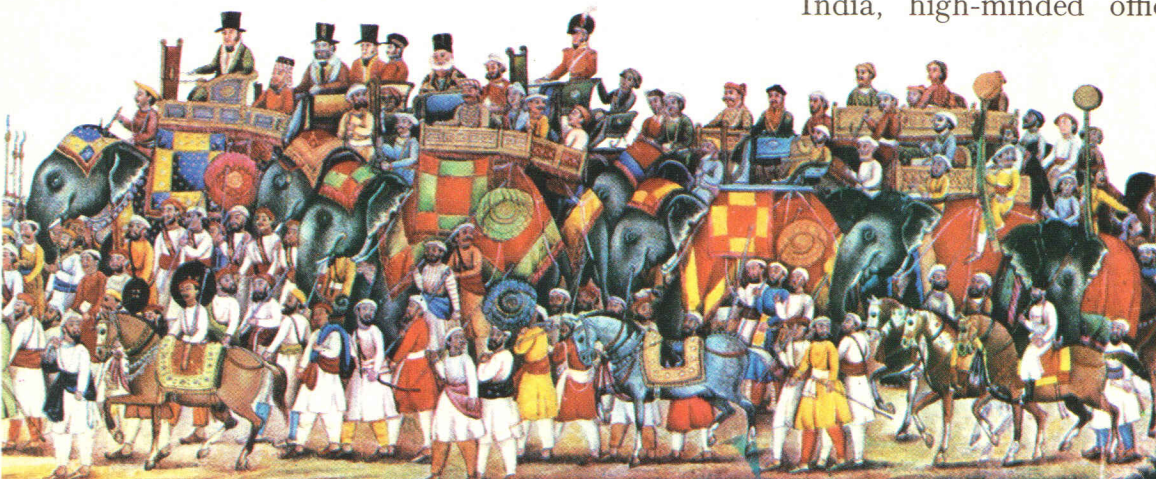
Wilberforce House, Hull

know that Captain Cook, who put New Zealand and Australia on the map about 1770, actually sailed with secret orders to stop the French challenge in the Pacific?

## The good, the bad and the ugly

The French bogey had haunted Britain for centuries but with Napoleon's defeat, Britain began a new century of unprecedented imperial expansion.

You will see, in this heady, self-confident era, good and evil set in jarring contrast. William Wilberforce led a remorseless, Christian campaign to eradicate slavery, and its abolition in 1834 inspired the world. In India, high-minded officials ended the murderous activities of the Thugs, who to fulfil their "divine" duty, strangled some 10,000 wayfarers a year. One of them



Mughal imperial procession

Please lift this page and carefully remove the staple securing this outer cover in order to detach your BRITISH EMPIRE CHRONOLOGY CHART.

many enemies, as THE BRITISH EMPIRE reveals in a collection of contemporary drawings, never before published, which ridicule the great man's search for the source of the Nile.

### The African nightmare

The Empire, however, was beginning to break even as it was made. South Africa was the setting for the greatest disasters of the late 19th Century. In 1879, the Zulus, Black Spartans armed only with spears, overran a British army – because the ammunition-boxes were so rusty they could not be undone quickly enough. Then the patriarchal Boers – “the best mounted infantry since the Mongols,” as Churchill called them – won their independence by humiliating the British at Majuba Hill.

The struggle broke out afresh in 1899. The spectre of defeat loomed large, for the Boers proved frighteningly adept at guerilla warfare. England poured in men and managed to relieve besieged Mafeking, an event greeted with hysterical joy in London, where it was universally – and falsely – believed that the town had endured incredible hardships. It took two more years – and the introduction of the

Kegan Paul Trench Trubner & Co. Ltd



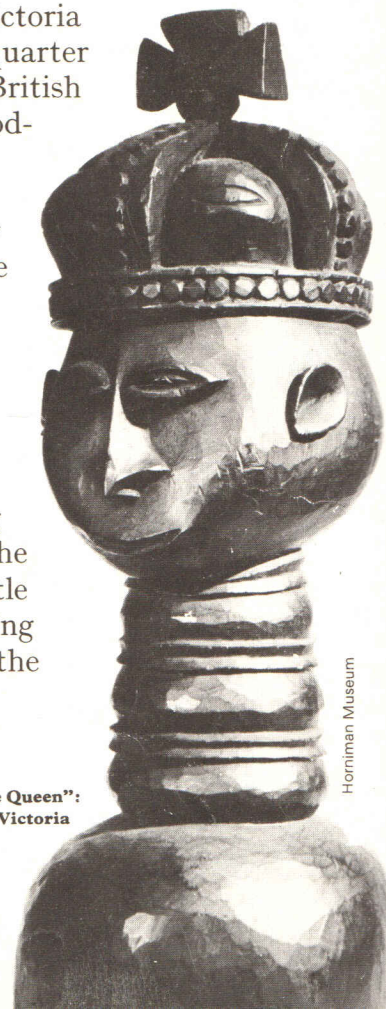
Boers in action

first concentration camps – before victory was won. Now, Victoria ruled impassively over one-quarter of the surface of the globe. British rule seemed to many to be God-given, immutable.

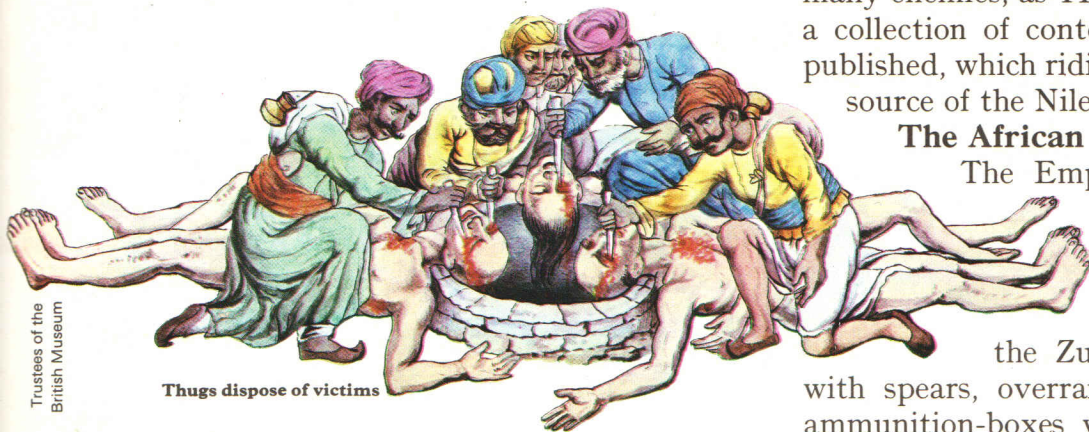
### Decline and fall

But it was not to last. Many of the people who thought the Empire was indestructible were alive to see the whole gigantic edifice gradually dismantled. Built up haphazardly over centuries, the Empire was dissolved in decades. There was no lasting warfare. There was, despite the errors of Imperial rule, little grief on any side – a lasting tribute to the quality of the men who represented the mother country overseas.

“The Great White Queen”: African view of Victoria



Horniman Museum



Thugs dispose of victims

Trustees of the British Museum

was bitterly disappointed to be arrested when about to achieve a coveted ambition: the murder of his 1,000th victim!

In 1857, the Indian soldiers, distressed by the unsettling British reforms, plunged India into a round of blood-letting – and convinced many Englishmen that an enlightened, if more remote, rule was the only way to guarantee peace. The 50 years after the Mutiny were a monument, not only to British power, but also to the highest ideals of imperial service.

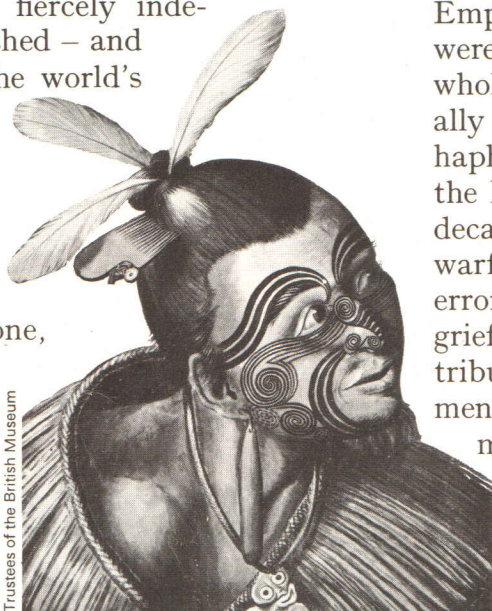
Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris



Britain forces opium on China

Yet the same nation that produced moralists and humanitarian reformers also fostered unscrupulous fortune-hunters. The East India Company controlled the sale of opium in the Far East, and when in 1839 the Chinese Emperor banned opium – “the common sink of all iniquity” – the British rushed to arms – and seized several Chinese ports to ensure the security of their trade.

Elsewhere, Britain expanded voraciously. In New Zealand, the intelligent, fiercely independent Maoris were crushed – and then incorporated into the world's first welfare state. Australians rushed inland to search for gold. Railways drove westwards across Canada. Explorers like that intractable zealot, Livingstone, focused Britain's attention on the African interior. His exploits made him England's hero. But he was an impossible man, with



Trustees of the British Museum

Tattooed Maori

# THE BRITISH EMPIRE

## CHRONOLOGICAL CHART

1500

Foundation for Empire  
1500-1700

1700

### India

**1600**  
East India Company founded.

**1717**  
East India Company exempted from customs duties by Mogul emperor.

**1748**

### The Americas

**1583**  
Sir Humphrey Gilbert takes possession of Newfoundland.

**1584**  
Sir Walter Raleigh establishes a colony in Virginia.

**1612**  
Company formed to colonize Bermuda.

**1620**  
Pilgrim Fathers land at Cape Cod.

**1651**  
Navigation Laws require that colonial products be shipped to England in British vessels.

**1681**  
Pennsylvania granted to William Penn.

**1625-32**

Settlement of St Christopher, Barbados, Nevis, Antigua and Montserrat.

**1620-30**  
Other East Coast colonies founded.

**1664**  
Dutch surrender New Amsterdam (New York)

**1686**  
Dominion of New England formed by consolidation of colonies.

**1733**  
Georgia founded.

**1755**

### Far East and Pacific

**1670**  
Hudson's Bay Company incorporated.

**1704**  
Gibraltar captured from Spain.

### Mediterranean and Middle East

### Africa

# Struggle for Empire 1700-1815

English supremacy. **1757**

British recapture Calcutta. Nawab defeated at battle of Plassey. Virtual English protectorate of **Bengal**.

**1765-67** Clive administers Bengal.  
**1769-70** Bengal famine; one-third die.

**1772-85** Warren Hastings, governor of Bengal, initiates reforms.  
Regulating Act established supreme court for British subjects in East India Company's territories.

**1784** Pitt's India Act, aimed at checking territorial expansion, forbids interference in native affairs.

**1802** Ceylon ceded by Batavian Republic.

**1816-18** Defeat of Pindari and Maratha tribes leaves only Nepal, the Sikh state and Afghanistan completely independent.

**1824-26** Anglo-Burmese War. Britain acquires **Assam**.

**1828-35** Bentinck, governor-general, suppresses suttee and thuggism, plans roads and canals, codified laws, initiates primary education in English.

**1833** East India Company's functions restricted to administration of its Indian territories.

**1839-42** First Anglo-Afghan War.

**1759** Capture of **Quebec**.  
**1760** Capture of **Montreal**.

**1762** Capture of **Martinique, Grenada, St. Lucia, St Vincent** and other French West Indies.  
**1763** Treaty of Paris ends war. France cedes all claim to **Canada, Cape Breton** and part of **Louisiana**.

**1764** Sugar Act, to raise revenue and reform colonial system.

**1775** American War for Independence starts with battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill.

**1776** Declaration of Independence.

**1781** Cornwallis surrenders after siege of Yorktown.

**1783** Northwest Company organised to explore Canadian West.  
Peace treaty recognises the independence of the United States.

**1791** Canada Act divides Canada into Upper and Lower (predominantly French) Canada.

**1812** War with United States.

**1817-18** Australian settlers move inland.  
**1819** **Singapore** founded.

**1824** **Malacca** ceded by Dutch.

**1829** Britain claims entire continent of **Australia**. Perth (**West Australia**) founded.

**1834-36** **South Australia** settled.

**1840** Last convicts land in New South Wales.

**1768-71** Cook circumnavigates New Zealand and explores east coast of Australia.

**1772-75** Cook discovers New Hebrides, New Caledonia and Norfolk Island.

**1776-79** Cook discovers Christmas and Sandwich Islands.

**1786** Penang granted to East India Company.

**1788** First convicts land at Botany Bay. Britain claims **New South Wales**.  
**1790** 'Bounty' mutineers settle on **Pitcairn** Island.

**1793** First free settlers arrive in New South Wales.  
**1794** Australian sheep-rearing starts.

**1802-03** Flinders explores south coast of Australia.  
**1803-04** **Tasmania** settled.

**1814** **Malta** annexed.

**1824-27** First Ashanti War (Gold Coast).

**1834** Abolition of slavery throughout the Empire.

**1838** Boers defeat Zulus, establish Republic of Natal.

**1795** Dutch at Cape of Good Hope surrender to British.  
**1799** British Church Missionary Society starts work in West Africa.

**1803** British return Cape to Dutch.  
**1805** Park dies exploring Niger.

**1814** British secure **Cape** under Treaty of Paris.

**1835-37** The Great Trek north by 10,000 Boers.

**1839** Aden occupied.

First and second Anglo-Sikh wars. Punjab annexed.

Kashmir sold to Hindu chieftain under British control.

**1848-56**  
Under governor-general Dalhousie, railways and telegraph service introduced.  
**Seven principalities** annexed under Doctrine of Lapse.

**1856**  
Annexation of **Oudh**.  
**1857**  
Universities founded at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

**1858**  
Government of India Act transfers government to the crown, creates position of Viceroy.

**1857**  
Indian Mutiny. Atrocities on both sides embittered relations between Indians and Europeans for ninety years.

**1848**  
Dunedin founded.  
**1850**  
Christchurch founded. Start of sheep-raising on Canterbury Plains.  
**1852**  
Australian states granted self government.

**1852**  
University of Sydney founded. First steamship arrives.  
**1856**  
Responsible government established in New Zealand.

**1860**  
First south-to-north crossing of Australia.  
**1861**  
Gold discovered in New Zealand.  
**1861**  
**Queensland** established as separate colony.

**1867**  
British North America Act united Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the **Dominion of Canada**.

**1867**  
**Straits Settlements** become crown colony.  
**1867**  
Last convicts land in Australia.

**1869**  
**North-West Territories** purchased from Hudson's Bay Company.

**1869-70**  
Red River Rebellion.

**1876**  
**Quetta** occupied.  
**1877**  
Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India

**1874**  
Annexation of **Fiji**.

**1876-78**  
Five million die in Deccan famine.

**1878-81**  
Second Anglo-Afghan War. Britain controls **Afghanistan's** foreign relations.

**1880-84**  
Ripon, viceroy, introduces local self-government. Defeat of Ilbert Bill, by which Indian judges could try Europeans.

**1882**  
Refrigerated ships open world markets to New Zealand farmers.

**1884**  
South-eastern **New Guinea** annexed.

**1885**  
Indian National Congress founded to demand government reforms and Indianisation of civil service.  
**1885-86**  
Anglo-Burmese War. Annexation of **Upper Burma**.

**1885**  
Northwest Rebellion.

**1885**  
Opening of Canadian Pacific Railway.

**1851**  
Gold discovered in Victoria.

**1852**  
British recognize independence of Transvaal.  
**1854**  
Boers organize Orange Free State.

**1853-56**  
Livingstone crosses Africa, discovers Victoria Falls.

**1858-59**  
Burton and Speke discover Lakes Tanganyika and Victoria Nyanza.

**1858-61**  
Livingstone's third expedition: Lake Nyanza discovered.

**1860-63**  
Speke and Grant in Uganda and exploring Nile.

**1863**  
Baker, ascending Nile, meets Speke and Grant.

**1861**  
**Lagos** acquired by treaties.

**1864**  
Baker discovers Lake Albert Nyanza.

**1866-71**  
Livingstone explores Nyasa-Tanganyika area.

**1867**  
Diamonds discovered on the Orange River.

**1869**  
Suez Canal opened. India's overseas trade triples in next four decades.

**1869-70**  
Red River Rebellion.

**1869-70**  
Red River Rebellion.

**1875**  
Britain becomes main shareholder in Suez Canal.

**1871**  
Kimberley founded, centre of diamond industry. Britain annexes diamond region.

**1873-74**  
Trading posts on **Gold Coast** purchased from Dutch. Second Ashanti War.

**1874-77**  
Stanley circumnavigates Lake Victoria Nyanza, descends Congo to coast.

**1877**  
South African Republic is annexed.  
**1879**  
Zulu War. United Africa Company founded to expand Nigerian trade.

**1880-81**  
Transvaal Boers revolt, achieve independence of South African Republic.

**1883-1907**  
Baring consul-general of Egypt.

**1883**  
Outbreak of Mahdi's revolt in Sudan.

**1882**  
Refrigerated ships open world markets to New Zealand farmers.

**1882**  
Egyptian nationalists defeated by Khedive and British.

**1884**  
South-eastern **New Guinea** annexed.

**1885**  
Northwest Rebellion.

**1885**  
Opening of Canadian Pacific Railway.

**1885**  
Death of Gordon at Khartoum.

**1885**  
**Niger River** region a protectorate.  
**1886**  
Wars in Nyasaland against Arab slavers.

**1885-96**  
Wars in Nyasaland against Arab slavers.

# Height of Empire 1815-1914

Protectorate over **Sarawak and North Borneo**.

**1892**  
Protectorate over **Gilbert and Ellice Islands**.

**1896-98**  
Kitchener reconquers **Sudan**.

**1900**  
Protectorate over **Tonga**.

**1901**  
States unite to form the **Commonwealth of Australia**.  
**Cook Islands** annexed to New Zealand.

**1906**  
British New Guinea becomes an Australian possession.

**1907**  
**New Zealand** achieves Dominion status.  
Cannberra made Australian capital.

**1914**  
Malaya fully under British control.

**1920**  
German **New Guinea and Samoa** under Australian and New Zealand mandates.

**1933**  
Australia claims one-third of Antarctic.

**1898-1905**  
Curzon viceroy.  
Administrative reforms.  
Expedition to **Tibet**.

**1905**  
Partition of Bengal. **East Bengal** (mainly Muslim) and **Assam** detached from province.

**1906**  
All-India Muslim League founded.

**1918-19**  
Influenza epidemic: five million die.

**1919**  
Rowlatt Acts: agitators can be interned without trial.  
Amritsar Massacre: General Dyer orders troops to fire on unarmed crowd: 379 killed.  
Government of India Act, reforms introduced.

**1921**  
Non-co-operation movement, led by Gandhi, at its height. Terrorist outbreaks.

**1928**  
India swept by strikes. Congress empowers Gandhi to begin new civil disobedience campaign.

**1930**  
Gandhi re-arrested. Congress declared illegal, non-violent demonstrations crushed.

**1931**  
Gandhi released for discussions with government.

**1932**  
Gandhi re-arrested. Congress declared illegal, non-violent demonstrations crushed.

**1933-34**  
Civil disobedience movement slows down.

**1935**  
Government of India Act. **Burma and Aden** separated from India. Eleven provinces created.

**1936**  
Hindu-Muslim riots. Full independence offered. Jinnah insists on separate Moslem state of **Pakistan**.

**1937**  
Mountbatten viceroy. Untouchability outlawed.  
Independence of **India**, partition of India and Pakistan. Two million refugees exchanged.

Thus ended Britain's Indian Empire—the greatest step in the change from world-wide Empire into a tenuous, still-evolving Commonwealth.

**1890**  
British Protectorate over Zanzibar.

**1892-98**  
Nyasaland pacified.

**1895**  
**East Africa Protectorate** established. Jameson Raid against Boers in Transvaal.

**1899-1902**  
Boer War. After early successes, Boers defeated in field and adopt guerrilla tactics. Finally accept British sovereignty.

**1900-03**  
**Northern Nigeria** conquered.

**1901**  
**Ashanti** kingdom annexed, joined to **Gold Coast**.

**1910**  
Formation of **Union of South Africa**.

**1914**  
**Egypt** proclaimed a British protectorate. **Cyprus** formally annexed.

**1920**  
**Palestine and Mesopotamia** (Iraq) become mandates.

**1922**  
**Egypt** independent.

**1927**  
Iraq independent.

**1920**  
Mandate over German East Africa (Tanganyika). British East Africa renamed **Kenya**, made crown colony.

**1923**  
**Southern Rhodesia** a crown colony. **Northern Rhodesia** also a crown colony.

**1935**  
British oil pipeline from Mosul to Haifa opened.

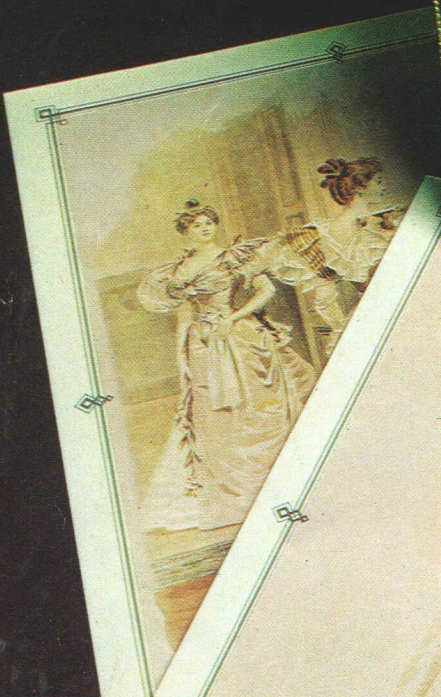
**1936**  
British troops withdraw from **Egypt**. (apart from Canal Zone and Alexandria naval base).

# 1914

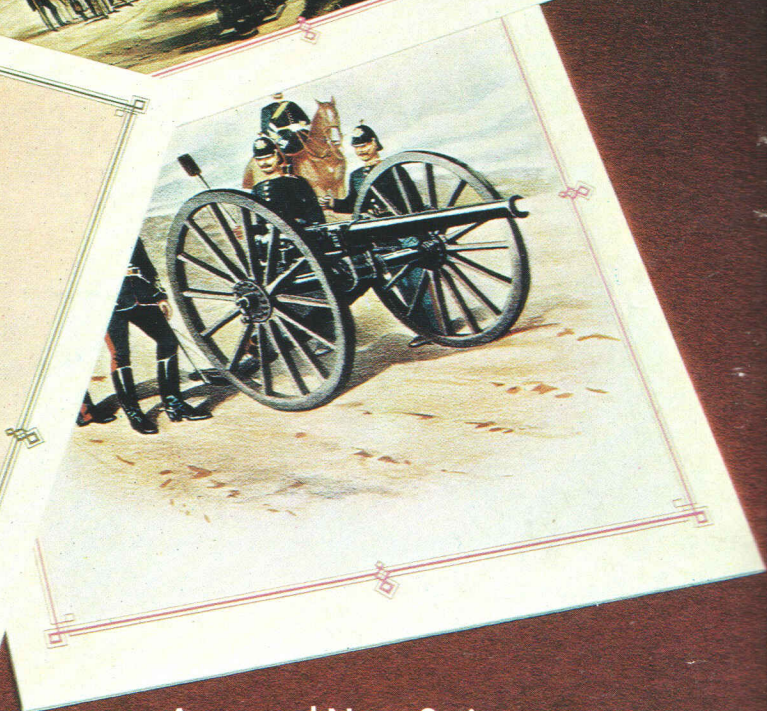
# End of Empire 1914 onwards



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