

# Glossary of terms

- Afrikaans** Language spoken by Boers, meaning 'African-Dutch'.
- Afrikaner** A person born in South Africa of Dutch/Boer descent.
- Annexation** Taking permanent possession of a country.
- Apartheid** Segregation and separate development of races.
- Autocratically** Non-democratic rule which is often conducted by one person.
- Bantu** An African people who speak a common group of languages. In the apartheid era, the white minority used 'bantui' or 'native' to refer to Africans in South Africa, often in a derogatory way.
- Boers** People of Dutch origin who settled in southern Africa.
- Breech-loading** Firearms that loaded at the side rather than down the barrel (like a musket).
- Cession** The process of giving up power or ceding territory.
- Chanak crisis** An international crisis which almost resulted in a war between Britain and Turkey in 1922.
- Cold War** The rivalry between the USA and its allies and the USSR and its allies after the Second World War.
- Colonial Service** The people who worked for the British Colonial Office.
- Commonwealth** A group of states united by a common interest or joint history.
- Confederation** An association of states which unite permanently by treaty. Those states retain specific local powers.
- Conscription** Compulsory enrolment for service, either in the armed forces or in particular areas of work.
- Customs union** A group of states having free trade among themselves, and a common tariff policy towards non-member states.
- Deficit** A shortfall of revenue, as compared with expenditure.
- Dervishes** Members of an Islamic sect who opposed Egyptian/British rule in the Sudan in the late nineteenth century.
- Devolution** The handing over of powers.
- Diarchy** A form of government in which two bodies are vested with power.
- Domains** Britain's self-governing colonies (for example, Australia and Canada).
- Dumping** Exporting commodities for sale at below the cost of production to ruin overseas competition.
- East India Company** A commercial company that established considerable political power in India in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.
- Emir** A North African chieftain.
- Entente** A friendly agreement not involving a binding commitment.
- Envoy** A diplomat sent to transact business with a foreign government.
- Evangelists** People who do their best to spread (what they believe to be) good ideas.
- Executive power** The right to administer and manage.
- Free trade** International trade that takes place without tariffs being imposed.
- Gold Coast** Present-day Ghana.
- Gross national product (GNP)** The total value of all goods and services produced within a country plus the income from all investments abroad.
- Guerrilla war** Conflicts in which irregular forces harass an enemy rather than fight pitched battles.
- Hinterland** Inland territory.
- Holocaust** Hitler's attempt to eliminate all the Jews in Europe after 1941.
- Indenture** A written agreement, often between workers and employers, agreeing terms of employment — usually for a long period.
- Indian National Congress** Initially a society set up by educated Indians, it eventually became a major political force, campaigning first for home rule and then for independence for India.
- Indigenous** People who are native to the area they inhabit.
- Industrial Revolution** The economic and social changes arising out of the change from industries carried out in the home with simple machines to industries in factories with power-driven machinery. This led to a great change in the scale of production.

**Irish Home Rule** The idea that Ireland should have its own Parliament and be essentially independent from the rest of Britain.

**Jewel in the crown** The greatest asset.

**Jingoism** Extreme patriotism. (The word came from a popular song of the 1870s when Disraeli threatened war with Russia. According to the lyrics, 'We don't want to fight but by jingo if we do; we've got the ships, we've got the men; we've got the money too'.)

**Khaki fever** British soldiers wore khaki (brown)-coloured uniforms.

**Laissez-faire** The principle that governments should not interfere in social and economic matters.

**League of Nations** An organisation, similar to the present-day United Nations, established in 1919 to help preserve world peace.

**Little Englanders** Opponents of British imperialism.

**Mandate** The power conferred upon a state by the League of Nations to govern and protect a region.

**Manifest destiny** A God-given right. The term is more widely used with regard to the USA's expansion westwards in the course of the nineteenth century.

**Martial law** The imposition of military power by a government in time of emergency, resulting in the temporary suspension of ordinary administration and policing.

**Mercantilism** The belief, widely held in Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, that economic self-sufficiency is the key to national wealth and prosperity. European states envisaged that colonies would provide them with valuable raw materials and also provide markets for their goods.

**Middle East** The mainly Turkish and Arabic-speaking area around the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea and in the Arabian Peninsula.

**Missionary** A person sent on a mission to convert people, usually to a particular form of religion.

**Mother country** The home country of colonists.

**Mughals** A Muslim dynasty which claimed to rule much of India from 1526 until 1858.

**Northern Rhodesia** Modern Zambia.

**Ottoman Empire** The huge empire controlled by the Ottoman Turks in the Middle East.

**Pass laws** Acts restricting the movement of black people in South Africa.

**Passive resistance** Deliberate refusal to do what law or regulation demands and submission to the consequent penalties.

**Paternalistic** A system or tendency in which well-meaning supervision is apt to be seen as unwelcome interference.

**Portuguese East Africa** Modern Mozambique.

**Protectionism** The introduction of high import duties to protect a nation's industries from foreign competition.

**Protectorates** States or territories which have effectively been taken over and run by another (more powerful) state without being officially annexed.

**Raison d'être** The main purpose.

**Raj** Used to describe British rule in India, 1858–1947. It encompasses attitudes and styles of living as well as Britain's actual governing of India.

**Rajahs** Indian and other Asian princes or kings.

**Rand millionaires** British and German mining magnates who made fortunes from Transvaal gold. The rand was the Boer currency.

**Reservations** Areas of land set aside for use by particular groups.

**Satellite states** Countries which rely on and obey the dictates of a more powerful state.

**Scorched-earth policy** This involves burning farms, destroying crops, rounding up animals and poisoning the wells of the enemy.

**SEATO** The South-East Asian Treaty Organisation was set up in 1954.

**Self-determination** The power of people (of a particular group/nation) to choose their own form of government.

**Southern Rhodesia** Modern Zimbabwe.

**Sovereignty** Ultimate power.

**Suzerainty** Having supreme power over someone.

**Third World** The developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, which were not aligned with either the USA or the USSR.

**Uitlanders** White foreigners living in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

**USSR** The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, formed in 1922.

**Zionists** Jews who wished to establish a national home in Palestine.