**Paper 3 Option 35.1**

**Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763-1914**

**Revision notes**

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**Knowledge checklists**



**Learning Tracker – Breadth Study**

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|  |  | Mark each on a scale of 1-51= very confident / sufficient / effective – 5 = Never heard of it / action needed! |  |
| **Overall Topic** | **Specific topic** | How confident am I? | I have sufficient notes on this topic? | I have given completed wider reading for this topic? | I have started to revise and review this topic? | I have revised this topic for mock exam week, **20th January?** | How confident am I? | Actions needed and taken (list details) |
| 1. **The changing nature and extent of trade**
 |
| **1** Reasons for, and nature of, the changing patterns of trade, 1763-1914 | The slave trade |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Trade in coal and textiles |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New trading patterns with the Americas, India and the Far East |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The impact of industrialisation on trade |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The importance of government policy (abolition of the slave trade 1807, the adoption of free trade 1842–46, the repeal of the Navigation Acts 1849). |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The changing importance of ports, *entrepôts* and trade routes within the UK and throughout the Empire, 1763-1914 | The acquisition of Singapore 1819 and Hong Kong 1842 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The opening up of Shanghai to trade 1842  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The purchase of the Suez Canal shares 1875 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The acquisition of Zanzibar 1890 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The lease of Wei hai-wei 1898 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2 The changing nature of the Royal Navy** |
| The changing Royal Navy, 1763-1914 | The significance of changing ship types |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | The growing role of commerce protection, including protecting, and later suppressing, the slave trade |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Suppressing piracy and defending British commerce: the attack on Algiers 1816 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The work of exploration and mapping e.g. Captain cook's exploration of the south seas, 1768-71 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The importance of the acquisition and retention of key strategic bases around the globe, 1763-1914 | Gibraltar retained 1783 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The acquisition of Malta, Ceylon and Cape Town in 1815 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Falklands in 1833 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Aden in 1839 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cyprus in 1878) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Learning Tracker – Depth Study**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Mark each on a scale of 1-51= very confident / sufficient / effective – 5 = action needed! |  |
| **Overall Topic** | **Specific topic** | How confident am I? | I have sufficient notes on this topic? | I have given completed wider reading for this topic? | I have started to revise and review this topic? | I have revised this topic for mock exam week, **20th January?** | Actions needed and taken (list details) |
| **1 The loss of the American****colonies,****1770–83** | Tensions between colonists and the British, 1770–75: the issue of custom collection and tea duties, including the Boston Tea Party; the Coercive Acts 1774 and their impact. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clashes between British forces and rebels, 1775–76; the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Britain's defeat, 1777–83: French and Spanish involvement; Britain’s limited military resources; the defeats of Burgoyne 1777, and Cornwallis 1781; the decision to seek peace and accept the Treaty of Paris. Impact of defeat on Britain 1783. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **The birth of British****Australia,****1788 -1829** | Australia’s role as a penal colony from 1788; the importance of Lachlan Macquarie: the development of Sydney; land grants to ex-convicts and development up the Hawkesbury River; the growth of Macquarie towns |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Impact of British settlement on Aborigines in Tasmania and New South Wales, 1788-1829. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The spreading impact: penal settlement in Van Diemen's land 1803; development of whaling; first crossing of the Blue Mountains 1813; first settlements in Western Australia 1826; extent of colonial control by 1829. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **3 Learning****from past****mistakes:****Canada and****the Durham****Report, 1837–40** | The political nature and governmental system of Upper and Lower Canada and the perceived threat from the USA. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The revolts of 1837–38: causes, course and impact. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The importance of the Earl of Durham's appointment as High Commissioner; the roles of Charles Buller and Edward Gibbon Wakefield; the main recommendations and importance of the Durham Report. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **4 Nearly losing****an empire: the****British in****India, 1829–58** | The role of the East India Company and the Governor General; the importance of Bengal and the Company Army. William Sleeman’s campaign against Thagi: the drive against Sati and female infanticide; the impact of missionaries. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Indian Rebellion: the reforms of Dalhousie; the annexation of Awadh; outbreak and events in Meerut, Cawnpore and Delhi; the siege and relief of Lucknow |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reasons why the British retained control. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **5 The Nile****valley, 1882–98** | Reasons for intervention in Egypt 1882: Arabi Pasha and Arab nationalism; protecting European loans and people. French withdrawal; the British military campaign. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Egypt as a 'veiled protectorate'; the promises to withdraw and the failure to do so; the work of Sir Evelyn Baring. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The problem of the Sudan: the Mahdi; Gladstone's concerns and policy; Gordon's mission, 1884–85. The conquest of the Sudan 1898: the fear of French occupation; the role of Kitchener; the significance of Omdurman. |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**The changing nature of trade**

**Reasons for, and nature of, the changing patterns of trade, 1763-1914**

**Government policy**

* Government economic policy until the late eighteenth century was mercantilist and trade was ‘protected’.
* Mercantilists believed that the amount of trade in the world was fixed at any one time; one country could only expand at the expense of another.
* Since the 1650s, the Navigation Acts had protected British trade by controlling the goods that could be traded and the ships that could be used.
* The percentages of the crew that had to be British were set and there was a list of goods that could only be exported from the colonies and empire to Britain.
* The ‘Enumerated List’ controlled trade within the empire. It was designed to ensure that Britain benefited from all trade between colonies.
* Goods on the list could not be traded directly between colonies and had to go via Britain.
* The British government could decide how colonial goods would be taxed; this was at the centre of American objections to the arrival of Indian tea in Boston in 1773.

**The Wealth of Nations**

* Mercantilism was challenged in 1776 by the publication of ‘The Wealth of Nations’ by Adam Smith.
* Mercantilists believed that gold and silver were wealth and that countries should boost exports and resist imports in order to maximize this metal wealth.
* Smith’s stated that a nation’s wealth is really the stream of goods and services that it creates.
* The way to maximise it, he argued, was not to restrict the nation’s productive capacity, but to set it free.
* He claimed that productive capacity rests on the division of labour and the accumulation of capital that it makes possible.
* Huge efficiencies could be gained by breaking production down into many small tasks, each undertaken by specialist hands.
* This left producers with a surplus that they can exchange with others, or use to invest in new and even more efficient labour-saving machinery.
* Smith believed that a country’s future income depends upon this capital accumulation. The more that is invested in better productive processes, the more wealth will be created in the future.
* He introduced simple laws of supply and demand. Where things are scarce, people are prepared to pay more for them: there is more profit in supplying them.
* Where there is a glut, prices and profits are low, producers switch their capital and enterprise elsewhere.
* Industry should remain focused on the nation’s most important needs, without the need for central direction. That meant free trade and competition.
* Free trade and competition would result in cheaper prices, better supplies and greater happiness.

William Pitt the Younger

* When Pitt took office, the National Debt stood at £250 million. That was twenty times the annual revenue of £12.5 million from taxes.
* The annual interest on government borrowing, which stood at about £8.3 million,automatically produced a deficit which was funded by further borrowing resulting in increased interest and an even greater deficit. National bankruptcy was a strong possibility.
* Pitt had to reverse the trend. He had three possible ways of doing this. He could stimulate trade, increase taxation and/or cut government spending.
* Pitt chose to implement all three options as one policy. He also needed to avoid involvement in any war since wars were the major cause of the debt.

**Trade**

* By the 1780s, the Industrial Revolution was well established in Britain and provided the possibility of an increasing volume of exports
* The 1786 Vergennes (or Eden) Treaty was a commercial treaty with France negotiated successfully in the face of strong opposition from leading statesmen in both countries.
* France wanted British goods and the French market for British exporters’ potential was huge.
* It was so favourable to Britain that it created hardship in France which was a cause of the French Revolution.
* France reduced duties on oil, vinegar, wines and spirits. Britain reduced on textiles, pottery, leather goods and manufactures.
* Either country, while neutral, could carry goods freely during a war in which the other was engaged.
* By the terms of the treaty, Britain was left free to negotiate cheaper duties with Spain and Portugal for oil, wines and spirits because there was no clause limiting British trade solely with France.

**Excise duties**

* Smugglingbecame his first target. It was estimated that smuggling exceeded 20% of imports and accounted for half all tea in Britain, creating an obvious loss of revenue.
* High duties made smuggling profitable, so Pitt decided to reduce duties to make the temptation no longer adequate to the risk.
* Tea duties, averaging 119%, were reduced to 25%. Duties also were reduced on wines, spirits and tobacco.
* By 1789, quantity of tea passing through Customs had doubled and in one year (1784-5) the Exchequer got an extra £200,000.
* By 1792, government revenue had increased by £3 m as a result of legal increased consumption.
* The 1787 Hovering Act also attacked smuggling by extending the duties of Customs officials to 12 miles off-shore. Again, revenue rose.

**The impact of the French Wars, 1793-1815**

* Exports to Europe, but British manufacturers looked for new markets in North and South America.
* The Continental System did little to dampen trade and Napoleon was reduced to buying uniforms for his armies from west Yorkshire.
* Further progress was limited until the end of the wars and the Treaty of Vienna in 1815. the exception was the Slave Trade.

**The Anti-Slavery movement**

* The anti-slavery movement began in 1783, when a group of Quakers founded the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade.
* William Wilberforce MP became the leader in 1787. He started a campaign in Parliament.
* Thomas Clarkson carried out extensive research and collected first hand accounts from sailors and former slaves.
* Clarkson created a network of local groups and organised public meetings and the publication of pamphlets.
* Wilberforce used a diagram of a slave ship to try to persuade MPs to vote to abolish the slave trade.
* The Slave Trade Act was passed in March 1807, making the slave trade illegal throughout the British Empire.
* After the 1807 Act, slaves could still be held, though not sold, within the British Empire. The slave trade continued illegally through smuggling
* In the 1820s, the movement began a campaign against slavery. In 1823, the Anti-Slavery Society   was founded in Britain.
* Slavery was abolished in 1833. On 1 August 1834, all slaves in the British Empire were freed.
* They remained indentured to their former owners in an apprenticeship that meant gradual abolition by 1840. Full emancipation for all slaves was legally granted on 1 August 1838.

**Huskisson on trade and finance**

* Until 1823, British trade had operated under a limiting and restricting protectionist structure.
* All imported goods were subject to a sliding scale of duties until Huskisson, as President of the Board of Trade, replaced this in 1823 with a flat rate of 30%.
* He also relaxed the Navigation Acts, permitting British colonies to trade directly with other countries using their own ships but continuing to pay taxes to Britain.
* Huskisson then began to establish reciprocal treaties with individual countries, seeking reductions on specific goods.
* He then went on, in 1824, to impose further reductions on rum, wool and raw silk and in 1825 reductions on coffee, cotton, copper ore, iron ore, glass and paper were arranged.
* In 1825, after 70 private banks, due to the over-issuing of paper money, fell victim to bankruptcy
* Huskisson persuaded the Bank of England to melt down its gold reserves and circulate sovereigns.
* He also managed to coax parliament into passing a law preventing private banks from printing notes of less then £1 in value.
* Private banks were also granted permission to become joint companies. The restriction on printing could be seen as reactionary, for most restrictive legislation usually is.
* However, this was done for the common good of the country which lends it a claim to be progressive rather than repressive.
* Under a General Act of 1826, proposed by Huskisson, a flat rate of 10% was fixed on all imported raw materials and a flat rate of 20% was set on all British manufactured goods.
* It was through measures such as these that trade and industry was stimulated for they enabled Britain to increase its purchase, manufacture and export process.

**Peel**

* A trade recession and a collapse of business confidence led to rising unemployment in the early 1840s.
* Peel hoped to revive trade by reducing protective tariffs on imports.
* His first budget in 1842 reduced duties to 5% on raw materials, 12½% on semi-manufactured goods and 20% on finished articles.
* A sliding scale relaxed the Corn Law and income tax of seven pence in the pound on incomes over £150 per annum helped to make up the shortfall caused by the reduction of import duties.
* This second major budget of 1845 abolished virtually every import duty apart from those on corn.
* To stabilise, the currency, Peel introduced the **Bank Charter Act** in 1844.
* This restricted the issue of currency to the Bank of England, which had to back all paper currency with gold apart from a £14 million ‘fiduciary’ issue backed by securities.
* To curb reckless speculation, the **Companies Act** of 1844 obliged companies to register and publish their accounts.

**The Repeal of the Corn Laws 1846**

* The Corn Laws had been introduced in 1815 to protect British wheat farms from competition after the Napoleonic wars. Import of foreign wheat was banned until the price of British wheat reached 80 shillings per quarter.
* The Act had little impact on bread prices but it was bitterly resented as evidence of crude aristocratic self-interest.
* The Anti-Corn Law League was founded in Manchester in 1839; its main spokesmen were Richard Cobden and John Bright.
* The two organised mass meetings and demonstrations and sponsored a number of MPs.
* Finance was raised from northern businessmen, who were charged high fees (up to £50) for membership.
* Cobden and Bright believed in free trade and the need to provide cheaper food for working people.
* Many supporters of the League did so for more pecuniary motives; cheaper bread would mean lower wages.
* Peel became convinced of the need to repeal the Acts after 1841, but moved cautiously as his party was overwhelmingly committed to their defence.
* Famine in Ireland in 1845 following the failure of the potato crop encouraged Peel to repeal the Corn Laws.
* Peel was finally convinced by the arguments of Cobden and Bright in the winter of 1845-46.
* Peel became convinced of the need to repeal the Acts after 1841, but moved cautiously as his party was overwhelmingly committed to their defence.
* The Conservative Cabinet and Party were deeply divided and a powerful opposition to Peel was led by Benjamin Disraeli.
* Peel succeeded in repealing the Corn Laws in June 1846 thanks to Whig support, but two thirds of his own party rebelled against him.
* Only in 1846, after persuasion from Cobden and Bright, the leaders of the Anti-Corn Law League, did Peel agree to consider the repeal of the Corn Laws.
* Peel resigned in an effort to avoid having to repeal the Corn Laws, but Russell, the Whig leader, would not form a ministry.
* Peel was reappointed and went ahead with repeal, despite the opposition of many in his party. In so doing he split the Conservative Party that he had done so much to create
* In fact, repeal did little to tackle the problem. There was plenty of food in Ireland but it was either being exported to England, or it was too expensive for the Irish to buy.
* In any case, repeal did little to increase supplies of wheat through imports. Since 1815 the price of wheat in Britain had fallen steadily as a result of the introduction of high farming. Foreign wheat was no longer cheaper.
* Peel and Russell, who succeeded as prime minister in 1846, were not prepared to give food to the poor. But Russell did offer government loans in January 1847 to pay for emergency relief.
* However, in September 1847, loans were withdrawn and the Poor Law was enforced as the only way of offering relief.
* In the 1847 general election, Peel’s supporters in the Conservative Party broke away and called themselves Liberal-Conservatives or Peelites.

**Further developments**

* From the 1840s entrepreneurs were increasingly drawn to 'free trade' as a means of accelerating Britain's growing industries.
* they lobbied Parliament for the lowering or repeal of the many protectionist import and export duties on manufactured goods.
* Parliament took a major step in 1849 when it repealed the old, restrictive Navigation Acts. The Enumerated List had already been abolished in 1822.
* These measures were welcomed in Lancashire and by its thriving cotton industry which depended heavily on export markets and the supply of raw materials from the United States and elsewhere.
* Areas supporting heavy industry, such as iron, shipbuilding and engineering, also benefited and boosted their competitive ability internationally.

**Gladstone’s Budgets (1859-66)**

* Constructing the annual budget enabled Gladstone to fine-tune the approaches earlier started under Peel (and himself in 1853), and to lay down several key principles:
* The administration of public money is a sacred trust, that must lead to minimal waste or fraud
* Being economic is a real virtue and government must lead by example
* Governments must not take too much from the tax payer, and he even advocated the abolition of income tax.
* These ideals are best summarised as ECONOMY, EFFICIENCY AND HONESTY.

**1859 Budget**

* Despite initially raising income tax, Gladstone abolished duties on a wide-ranging list of goods, and brought Britain as close to completely Free Trade as it had ever been.

**The Cobden Treaty (1860)**

* This commercial treaty formed the final part of Gladstone’s Free Trade strategy. Tensions were running high with the French, over her expansion into Nice and Savoy, and her Suez Canal proposals.
* This explained GB’s rising defence expenditure. Gladstone and Richard Cobden (well-known Free Trader) brokered a deal to end the commercial rivalry between the 2 countries and thereby end the tension.
* It worked, as the flow of goods across the Channel benefited both sides and their economies.

* By 1860, the British economy had adapted to the ‘Free Trade’ policy that followed the repeal of the Corn and Navigation Laws in the 1840s.
* Any adverse effects of free trade were largely disguised by tremendous expansion of the world economy. There was a ten-fold increase in trade between 1850 and 1910.
* American and Australian gold discoveries, the ability of railways to open continental regions to trade and falling long distance freight rates sustained this expansion.
* Britain’s share of this expanding world trade was relatively stable, partly because her extensive empire provided secure markets and key raw materials.
* While the empire was a valuable segment of the economy, it was never dominant, occupying about 25% of the market in most areas.
* Longer term, British businessmen anticipated that, as and when competition from rival European economies and the United States intensified, imperial preferences would protect their markets.
* The colonies would supply cheap raw materials as British industries came under growing pressure on home and foreign as well as imperial markets.
* In fact, between 1873 and 1914, as British industry lost market share, the Empire continued to function as little more than an insurance policy for which British taxpayers and their domestic economy paid a rather high premium.
* Legally, the markets and resources of the vast and developing Victorian empire remained virtually open to foreign commerce, investment and labour flows.
* Liberal and Conservative governments resisted organised pressure from the ‘Fair Trade League’ and from Joseph Chamberlain’s campaign for imperial preference to abandon free trade.

**The changing importance of ports**

* The Triangular Trade in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was largely carried out by ‘factors’ (agents) based in ‘factories’ on the coast of West Africa.
* Until the late nineteenth century, this remained the pattern throughout the empire. Factors exerted influence ‘informally’, but made little or no attempt to gain territorial control.
* The exceptions were the American Colonies, which were the only part of the Empire with large numbers of British settlers and India.
* During the nineteenth century, ‘factories’ became coaling stations for the Royal Navy as sail changed to steam.
* They also became entrepots: local centres through which trade had to pass at a price.
* The acquisition of territory and further trading concessions was promoted by strategic considerations and aided or justified by philanthropic motivations.
* Advocates of imperialism justified it by invoking a paternalistic and racist theory which saw imperialism as a manifestation of what Kipling would refer to as ‘the white man's burden’.
* This was founded in part upon a popular but erroneous interpretation of Darwin’s theory of evolution.
* The implication was that the Empire existed not for the benefit of Britain itself, but in order that primitive peoples, incapable of self-government, could, with British guidance, eventually become civilised and Christian.
* The truth of this doctrine was accepted naively by some, and hypocritically by others, but it served in any case to legitimise Britain's acquisition of portions of Central Africa.

**Singapore**

* In 1818, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles believed that the British should find a way to challenge the dominance of the Dutch in the Straits area.
* The trade route between China and British India passed through the Malacca strait, and with the growing trade with China, that route would become increasingly important.
* The Dutch had tight control over the trade in the region and intended to enforce the exclusive rights of its company ships to trade and that trade should be conducted at its entrepot Batavia.
* British trading ships were heavily taxed at Dutch ports, stifling British trade in the region.
* Raffles believed that the way to challenge the Dutch was to establish a new port in the region.
* Existing British ports were not in a strategic enough position to becoming major trading centres.
* In 1818, Raffles managed to convince Lord Hastings to establish a new British base in the region, but with the proviso that it should not antagonise the Dutch.
* Raffles then searched for several weeks. He found several islands that seemed promising, but were either already occupied by the Dutch, or lacked a suitable harbour.
* Eventually Raffles found the island of Singapore. It lay at the southern tip of the Malay peninsula, near the Straits of Malacca.
* It possessed an excellent natural harbour, fresh water supplies, and timber for repairing ships. Most importantly, it was unoccupied by the Dutch.
* Raffles' expedition arrived in Singapore on 29 January 1819. He found a small Malay settlement.
* He took advantage of a dispute between rival claimants as Sultan of Johor and gained the right to establish a trading post on Singapore.
* In return, the new Sultan would receive a yearly sum of 5,000 Spanish dollars. This agreement was ratified with a formal treaty signed on 6 February 1819.
* The status of Singapore as a British possession was cemented by the Anglo-Dutch Treat of 1824, which carved up the Malay archipelago between the two colonial powers.
* The area north of the Straits of Malacca, including Penang, Malacca, and Singapore, was designated as the British sphere of influence.
* The area south of the Straits was assigned to the Dutch. This was in effect a scramble for the East Indies.

**Hong Kong**

* Trade to China in the eighteenth century was restricted to the port of Canton where English traders had to deal with one of 13 merchants selected by the Chinese government.
* The East India Company had a monopoly of British trade from Asia which in many ways counter-balanced the Chinese trading restrictions.
* In 1833 the British government ended the East India Company monopoly and traders rushed to fill the vacuum.
* The traders did not have many products that were of interest to the Chinese - silver was preferred but was in short supply.
* Many resorted to using opium as a trading commodity. The Chinese government was concerned at the debilitating effects of the drug and wished to prevent the inflow of Opium into the country.
* In 1838, it appointed a new Imperial High Commissioner to Canton, Lin Tse-hsu, to stamp out the importation of Opium.
* The British traders used his policies as an excuse to force the Chinese government to relax its restrictive trade practices.
* The so-called Opium War started in 1839 and lasted until 1842. The British were able to make demands upon the Chinese government.
* Chinese agreed to cede the rocky island of Hong Kong to Britain as a free port with rights of trade to the mainland.
* Charles Eliot, the British negotiator, was criticised for acquiring such an unpromising rocky outcrop with virtually no indigenous population.
* The British expanded their foothold, and the Second Opium War with China provided just such an opportunity.
* In 1860, the Peking convention was signed which ceded to Britain the Kowloon peninsula (up to Boundary Street) and Ngon Sun Chau.
* Britain had now acquired land on the mainland of China itself; this was to be in perpetuity.
* This provided some additional space for building and allowed the port facilities to expand.

**Shanghai**

* The first settlement in Shanghai for foreigners was the British settlement, which was opened in 1843 under the terms of the Treaty of Nanking.
* Subsequently, both the French and the Americans signed treaties with China that gave their citizens extraterritorial rights similar to those granted to the British.
* The Treaty listed five treaty ports, including Shanghai which were opened to foreign merchants, overturning the monopoly then held by the southern port of Canton.
* Unlike the colony of Hong Kong, which was a sovereign British territory, the foreign concessions in Shanghai originally remained Chinese sovereign territory.
* However, during the uprising of 1853–55, the Qing government gave up sovereignty in the concessions to the foreign powers in exchange of their support to suppress the rebellion.
* In 1854, the three countries created the Shanghai Municipal Council to serve all their interests, but, in 1862, the French dropped out of the arrangement.
* The following year the British and American settlements formally united to create the Shanghai International Settlement.
* As more foreign powers entered into treaty relations with China, their nationals also became part of the administration of the settlement.
* It always remained a predominantly British affair until the growth of Japan's involvement in the late 1930s.

**The purchase of Suez Canal shares, 1875**

* The completion of the Suez Canal in 1869 created an important new element for British foreign policy makers.
* The overland route to India had increased in importance from the 1840’s, however this was not suitable for large cargo, mainly communications
* Nevertheless the British were not keen on a canal, fearing that control of it could easily fall into enemy hands. In addition some British engineers doubted it could be completed.
* The result was the Suez Canal was built almost entirely with French expertise and capital, together with Egyptian labour, under the direction of Ferdinand de Lesseps.
* With the advent of new technology steamships were competing with sail and the canal gave them a distinct advantage on the route from Britain to India.
* By 1882, over 5 million tons of shipping went through the canal and 80% of it was British.
* In the meantime Egypt’s economic and financial difficulties had increased. Egypt’s ruler Said had been persuaded by Lesseps to take a 45 % stake in the Suez Canal Company.
* Said’s successor, Ismail, attempted to achieve a dramatic economic advance for his country, investing in transport and agriculture, at the same time as consolidating Egyptian control over Sudan.
* However in order to achieve this he borrowed heavily in Europe at very unfavourable rates and by 1875 he faced bankruptcy and considered selling his shares in the now successful Suez Canal Company to the French.
* The then British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, moved quickly to make an offer and bought the shares for Britain.
* Although they did not give Britain control of the Suez Canal (45% and without voting rights because of Ismail’s remortgaging of them) it became generally believed in Britain that the Suez Canal was now British.
* A French-British plan to re-order Egyptian finances was implemented and this ‘Dual Control’ of Egypt’s government revenue and expenditure lasted from 1878-1882.

**Zanzibar 1890**

* The Heligoland–Zanzibar Treaty was an agreement signed on 1 July 1890 between the Germany and Britain.
* Germany gained the small but strategic Heligoland archipelago. In exchange, Germany gave up its rights in East Africa.
* War broke out when the Sultan died in 1896 and there was a disputed succession. This led to a showdown, later called the Anglo-Zanzibar War.
* Ships of the Royal Navy destroyed the Beit al Hukum Palace, having given Khalid (the new Sultan) a one-hour ultimatum to leave.
* He refused, and at 9 am the ships opened fire. Khalid's troops returned fire and he fled to the German consulate.
* A cease-fire was declared 45 minutes after the action had begun. Hamoud was declared the new ruler and peace was restored once more.
* He brought an end in 1897 to Zanzibar's role as a centre for the eastern slave trade by banning slavery and freeing the slaves.

**Wei hai-wei**

* Wei hai-wei, in the north-east of China, was a British leased territory from 1898 until 1930. The capital was Port Edward.
* It covered 288 square miles (750 km) and included the walled city of Port Edward, bay of Wei hai-wei,  and a mainland area of 72 miles (116 km) of coastline. It controlled the the seaward approaches to Beijing
* Wei hai-wei was not developed in the way that Hong Kong and other British colonies in the region were. This was because Wei hai-wei was inside Germany's sphere of influence.
* It was normal practice for British colonies to be administered under the provisions of the British Settlements Act 1887.
* Wei hai-wei was actually administered under the Foreign Jurisdiction Act 1890 which granted powers over British subjects in China and other countries where Britain had extraterritorial rights.
* As a leased territory, subject to being returned at any time, it was inappropriate to treat Wei hai-wei as a full colony.

**The changing nature of the Royal Navy, 1763-1914**

**Changing ship types**

* When the Napoleonic war ended in 1815, Britain had more than 900 naval ships in commission, including more than 100 ships of the line.
* British control of the seas had been won using hearts of ‘oak’ over more than 150 years and the Royal Navy was very reluctant to make any changes.
* The first major innovation was the development of steam power, which became available in 1807 and was being widely used commercially by the 1830s.
* At first, it tended to be dismissed by the Admiralty for a number of reasons. For one thing, it was dirty and made a mess of sailing ships.
* It also required supplies of coal and these were not always readily available around the world.
* Early steamships were also paddle steamers and these meant that the broadside could not be used; consequently, steam ships were only used at first for towing ships of the line.
* In 1845, the Royal Navy staged a test between the screw driven Rattler and the paddle steamer Alecto.
* The former towed the latter at almost three miles an hour, proving that screw driven ships were more efficient.
* The invention of the triple expansion engine in 1854 made steam power much more efficient.
* The development of the screw propeller meant that steam could be used in traditional warships.
* The major change resulted from the launching of the ironclad French warship ‘La Gloire’ in 1859.
* This was taken so seriously by the British government and the Admiralty that a series of forts was constructed along the south coast to prevent a possible French invasion.
* These became known as ‘Palmerston’s Follies’ after the prime minister at the time.
* The government also ordered the construction of a British ironclad, HMS Warrior, which was launched in 1861.
* Hearts of Oak were now obsolete, but, the Warrior and other ships of the time still used the broadside as their main armoury and had masts in case supplies of coal ran low.
* The Warrior carried 26 muzzle-loading 68 pounders, 4 muzzle-loading 70 pounders and 10 breech-loading rifled 110 pounders and weighed 9,100 tons
* The improvement in explosive shells (developed originally in 1820) and steel production in the 1850s and 1860s meant that further developments in ironclads were inevitable.
* They led to the end of the broadside. As shells and guns became heavier, it became impossible to mount them on a broadside and casemates and later turrets were evolved.
* In 1871, HMS Devastation was the first British warship to be equipped with casemates and have no masts; instead it was fitted with very large coal bunkers.
* The Devastation carried 4 x 12 inch guns, 4 x 10 inch guns, 6 x 6 pounders and 8 x 3 pounders. It weighed 13,000 tins an had a top speed of 16 knots.
* The 1870s also saw the development of the torpedo and torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers (destroyers). In 1901, the Royal Navy began production of submarines.
* Despite the development of torpedoes and submarines, the battleship remained the most important naval weapon.
* A naval arms race with France in the 1860s and 1870s, which led to the two-power standard being adopted in Britain in 1889.
* This stated that the Royal Navy should always be at least as strong as the next two most powerful navies in the world.
* This led to a concentrated period of battleship construction with culminated in the Lord Nelson class in 1905.
* The Lord Nelson carried 4 x 12 inch guns, 10 x 9.2 inch guns, 24 x 12 pounders and 2 x 3 pounders. It hada top speed of 18 knots and weighed 17,000 tons
* Evidence from around the world seemed to suggest that battleships would be the key in future wars.
* In the Sino-Japanese War (1885-6), Japanese naval power was decisive.
* Even more impressive was the destruction of the Russian Baltic Fleet at the Battle of Tsushima in 1905, during the Russo-Japanese War.
* The Russian Baltic Fleet was ordered to sail around the world via the Cape of Good Hope to attack the Japanese navy which was blockading the Russian army in Port Arthur.
* The Japanese used tactics which were the exact opposite of those used by Nelson at Trafalgar.
* Their ships were in line of battle and caught the Russians as they steam through the Straits of Tsushima.
* The Russian ships were in two columns and steamed straight into the Japanese line. The Russian ships were destroyed in a short and devastating battle.
* The dominance of the battleship was emphasised when the German government announced the two Navy Laws in 1898 and 1900.
* It set out plans to build a fleet which would equal the Royal Navy in terms of battleships in twenty-five years.
* The British response was to start a building programme which resulted in a further naval arms race from 1905. This immediately made HMS Lord Nelson obsolete.

**Submarines**

* In, 1900, the Admiralty refused to consider submarines, but changed its mind a year later and ordered five to be built.
* The Holland Class of submarines were of approximately 110 tons displacement, 63 ft in length by 12ft wide and 10 ft high.
* The 160 hp petrol engine and 74hp electric motor gave a surface speed of 8knots and a submerged speed of 7 knots. Armament was a single bow Whitehead torpedo.
* There was a crew of 2 officers, 5 ratings and 3 white mice. The mice were used to monitor the air quality.
* They would quickly react to the presence of carbon monoxide or other dangerous gases escaping from the petrol engine.
* An allowance of 1 shilling per day per mouse was made for their keep. It was also said that they were often so full of rum and grain it was difficult to tell if they were suffering from foul air or just over indulgence.
* 13 A Class submarines were ordered from 1902-5 and the B Class was ordered from 1905. The first had one and later two torpedo tubes and a crew of eleven.
* They weighed about 300 tons and had a surface speed of 12 knots, a submerged speed of 6 knots and a range of 1,000 miles.
* Despite the many and major technological improvements made during the nineteenth century, naval tactics of the major maritime powers were still essentially traditional.
* Admirals in Britain, France, Germany, Japan and the USA expected that in future wars the key factor would be battleships.
* They anticipated big fleet actions in which numbers of ships and weight and rate of fire of big would be decisive; little had changed since Nelson’s day.

**The growing role of commerce protection**

* In the nineteenth century, ‘trade follows the flag’ became a popular slogan. The Royal Navy controlled the seas and kept them open for British trade.
* This could mean a passive role escorting convoys and offering protection from piracy.
* It could also be an active role forcing foreign countries to accept British intervention in their affairs.
* The First Opium War (1839-42) was decided by the dominance of the Navy using ‘gunboat diplomacy’.
* In 1850, Lord Palmerston, the Foreign Secretary, ordered the Royal Navy to blockade the Piraeus and seize Greek shipping.
* He forced the Greek government to pay compensation for losses incurred by Don Pacifico, a Portuguese Jew who had been born in Gibraltar.
* His house had been attacked and ransacked and he claimed £17,000 for loss of documents alone.
* In his speech in the House of Commons, Palmerston used the phrase ‘Civis Britannicus Sum’.
* He meant that a British subject should receive special treatment wherever in the world he (or she) was.

* In 1864 the bombardment of Kagoshima forced Japan to accept foreign traders.
* During the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78, a fleet of battleships was sent to intimidate Russia from entering Constantinople.
* In 1882, a fleet was sent to bombard Alexandria after the rebellion by Arabi Pasha to ensure control of the Suez Canal.
* The Navy was also involved in the suppression of the slave trade. A squadron was stationed off West Africa after 1807 to enforce abolition.
* The Blockade of Africa began in 1808. The Royal Navy immediately established a squadron off Africa to enforce the ban.
* Although the ban initially applied only to British ships, Britain negotiated treaties with other countries to give the Royal Navy the right to intercept and search their ships for slaves.
* As a result of the increased British interests on the East Coast of Africa, a squadron based at Cape Town was stationed off Zanzibar
* On the new East Coast Division the main role of the Royal Navy was still the anti-slavery patrols that had been maintained for many years.
* These patrols were in the main not carried out by the ships themselves, but by ship's boats that would be sent away on patrols of up to three weeks.
* 1n 1896, the Navy was used to support the British candidate for the Sultanate of Zanzibar and then to persuade him to abolish the slave trade.
* There were few major naval engagements during the nineteenth century. The only major battle was very one-sided.
* Navarino Bay in 1827 involved the joint British, Russian and French fleets destroying the Egyptian fleet of Mehemet Ali.
* He was trying to reinforce Ottoman forces in the Peloponnese during the Greek War of independence.
* The Navy played a small role in the Italian Wars of Unification. It stood by in 1860 when Garibaldi’s 1,000 crossed the Straits of Messina to prevent any interference.

**The attack on Algiers 1816**

* Corsairs from Algiers had been attacking shipping in the Mediterranean since the Middle Ages.
* The end of the Napoleonic war gave an opportunity to deal with them once and for all.
* In 1816 a British naval squadron under Admiral Sir Edward Pellew, Baron Exmouth, was fitted out and sent to Algiers where they arrived on 27 August 1816.
* They were accompanied by the small Dutch squadron of Vice-Admiral van Capellen, which had requested to join them at Gibraltar.
* Exmouth sought the release of the British Consul, who had been detained, and over 1000 Christian slaves, many being seamen taken by the Algerines.
* When they received no reply the fleet bombarded Algiers in the most spectacular of several similar punitive actions of this period that finally broke the power of the ‘Barbary pirates’.
* The British and Dutch naval bombardment of Algiers destroyed 33 ships in the harbour. In nine hours, the allied squadrons fired more than fifty thousand round shot.
* The casualties were in proportion. In the English ships, 818 men were wounded or killed; some 16 per cent of those engaged.

As a result of the bombardment, negotiations for a treaty, signed on Sept. 24, 1816, reaffirmed the conditions imposed by American Commodore Stephen Decatur in the treaty of 1815.
* In addition, the Dey agreed to end the practice of enslaving Christians. All Exmouth's aims in the action were achieved.
* 1083 Christian slaves and the British Consul were liberated, massive restitution paid and peace made between Algiers and the Dutch. Exmouth was created viscount for his role.

**The work of exploration and mapping**

* In 1740, Commodore Anson was sent with a squadron of eight ships to attack Spanish shipping in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
* He was unable to return via Cape Horn and ended up circumnavigating the globe and returned in 1744.
* In 1748, his *Voyage Round the World* was published, having been edited from his notes. It was a vast popular and commercial success.
* It described the adventures of the expedition and contained a huge amount of useful information for future navigators and with 42 detailed charts and engravings.
* It laid the basis for later scientific and survey expeditions by Captain Cook and others. Spanish charts added many islands to the British charts of the Pacific.
* One problem that Anson had encountered was the locating his exact position. He frequently got lost.

**Captain Cook**

* In 1766, Admiralty paid Captain James Cook to command a scientific voyage to the Pacific Ocean.
* The purpose of the voyage was to observe and record the transit of Venus across the Sun as a means of determining longitude.
* The expedition sailed from England in August 1768, rounded Cape Horn and continued westward across the Pacific to arrive at Tahiti in April 1769.
* The result of the observations was not as conclusive or accurate as had been hoped.
* Cook then opened the sealed orders which were additional instructions from the Admiralty for the second part of his voyage.
* He was to search the south Pacific for signs of the supposed rich southern continent of terra Australia.
* It had long been believed that there must be a large continent south ot the equator to balance the land mass of Europe and Asia to the north.
* Cook sailed to New Zealand and mapped the complete coastline, making only some minor errors.
* He then voyaged west, reaching the south-eastern coast of Australia in April 1770.
* He continued northwards along the east coast and subsequently claimed the entire coastline that he had just explored as British territory.
* He returned to England via Batavia (Jakarta) and became something of a hero among the scientific community, when his journals were published.
* In 1772, Cook was commissioned to lead another scientific expedition on behalf of the Royal Society, to search for Terra Australis.
* Cook had demonstrated by circumnavigating New Zealand that it was not attached to a larger landmass to the south.
* He had charted almost the entire eastern coastline of Australia, showing it to be continental in size, the Terra Australis was believed to lie further south.
* Cook's expedition circumnavigated the globe at an extreme southern latitude, becoming one of the first to cross the Antarctic Circle. He reached 71°10'S on 31 January 1774.
* Cook almost reached the mainland of Antarctica, but turned towards Tahiti to resupply his ship.
* He then resumed his southward course in a second attempt to find the supposed continent.
* Before returning to England, Cook made a final sweep across the South Atlantic from Cape Horn and surveyed, mapped and took possession for Britain of South Georgia.
* He then turned north to South Africa, and from there continued back to England. His reports upon his return home put to rest the popular myth of Terra Australis.
* In Cook's second voyage, he used a copy of John Harrison’s marine chronometer. This enabled him to calculate his longitude with much greater accuracy.
* The charts of the southern Pacific Ocean that were produced using Harrison’s chronometer were so accurate that copies of them were still in use in the mid-20th century.
* Cook’s third voyage was an attempt to find the North-West Passage; he left in 1776.
* In 1778, became the first European to reach the Hawaiian Islands. He then sailed north and then north-east to explore the west coast of North America and landed in Nootka Sound.
* After leaving Nootka Sound, Cook explored and mapped the coast all the way to the Bering Strait.
* H charted the majority of the North American north-west coastline on world maps for the first time, and determined the size of Alaska.
* Cook continued through the Bering Strait and headed north-east up the coast of Alaska until he was blocked by sea ice. His furthest north was 70 degrees 44 minutes.
* Cook then sailed west to the Siberian coast, and then south-east down the Siberian coast back to the Bering Strait.
* Cook returned to Hawaii in early 1779. He was killed as a result of a dispute with a local chief after a ship’s boat was stolen.

**Significance of Cook’s work**

* Cook contributed a great deal to European knowledge of the area. Several islands such as Hawaii were visited for the first time by Europeans.
* His more accurate navigational charting of large areas of the Pacific was a major achievement.
* To create accurate maps, latitude and longitude had to be measured accurately.
* Sailors had been able to work out latitude accurately for centuries by measuring the angle of the sun or a star above the horizon with an instrument such as a quadrant.
* Longitude was more difficult to measure accurately because it requires precise knowledge of the time difference between points on the surface of the earth.
* Cook gathered accurate longitude measurements during his first voyage due to his navigational skills and the help of astronomer Charles Green.
* On his second voyage, Cook used the K1 chronometer which was a copy of the H4 clock made by John Harrison.
* This proved to be the first to keep accurate time at sea when used on the ship *Deptford's* journey to Jamaica in 1761–62.
* Cook succeeded in circumnavigating the world on his first voyage without losing a single man to scurvy.
* He used several preventive measures but the most important was frequent replenishment of fresh food.

**The importance of the acquisition and retention of key strategic bases**

* From 1815, the Navy assumed a world-wide role in the battle against piracy and the slave trade.
* Bases around the world were essential for supplies and stores. They became even more so with the advent of steam power.
* Gibraltar had been ceded to Britain in 1713. In 1779, during the American Rebellion, French and Spanish forces laid siege.
* The siege lasted until 1782 and Gibraltar was relieved by the Navy in 1780 and 1781.
* In September 1782, a major assault was launched. Floating batteries were used to bombard Gibraltar, but they were all either sunk or scuttled after being damaged.
* Gibraltar was again relieved in October 1782 and the siege finally came to an end in February 1783 when the war finished.
* In the treaty, the Spanish preferred to retain Minorca and some Caribbean Islands and kleft Gibraltar in British hands.

**The Treaty of Vienna, 1815**

* The Napoleonic War finally ended after the battle of waterloo on 18 June 1815. The Treaty of Vienna was intended to ensure that war would not return.
* The main focus of the Treaty was rearranging Europe after the collapse of Napoleonic Empire and restoring the empires of Austria and Russia.
* Britain was interested in restricting further aggression by France, but the main British gains were islands.
* During the French Wars, Britain had occupied numerous islands around the world; many of these were retained in 1815.
* Malta had been occupied by British forces in 1800 and became a protectorate. It should have been evacuated in 1802 under the Treaty of Amiens, but remained under British control.
* In 1815, it was placed permanently under British control. Its excellent harbours became a prized asset for the British, especially after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869.
* The island became a military and naval fortress, the headquarters of the British Mediterranean fleet.
* Mauritius had been seized from France during the wars and became British in 1815. It was a useful base in the southern Indian Ocean
* The Cape of Good Hope had been invaded and occupied by British forces in 1795 and was retained at Amiens and in 1815. It became a key station until the opening of the Suez Canal.
* Ceylon (Sri Lanka) had been occupied in 1796 and the coastal areas were ceded by the Dutch in 1802 at Amiens. After 1815, all of the island was occupied.

**The Falklands**

* English forces first landed on the Falkland Islands in 1690; there was a presence on the islands until 1774.
* From 1774-1881, the islands were ruled as part of the Spanish Viceroyalty of the River Plate.
* In 1826, Louis Vernet, a French Huguenot, asked British permission to build a settlement on the islands.
* In 1829, he was appointed Governor by the United Provinces (Netherlands) which claimed the islands.
* This led to British forces landing in 1833 and taking over the settlement. A permanent British settlement was started n 1840 and British administration established in 1842.

**Aden**

* In January 1839, the East India Company landed Marines at Aden to secure the territory and stop attacks by pirates against British shipping to India.
* In 1850 it was declared a free trade port with the liquor, salt, arms, and opium trades developing duties as it won all the coffee trade from Mokka.
* The port was approximately equidistant from the Suez Canal. Bombay (Mumbai) and Zanzibar; all important British possessions.

**Cyprus**

* Cyprus was ceded to Britain by the Ottoman Sultan in 1878 as part of the Treaty of Berlin.
* The island had been offered to Britain on a number of occasions in the first half of the nineteenth century.
* It was accepted in 1878 as a result of Russian advances in the 1870s; the gift was intended to offer protection to the Ottoman Empire.
* The island served Britain as a key military base on the sea route to India, which was then Britain's most important overseas possession.
* In 1906, a new harbour at Famagusta was completed, increasing the importance of Cyprus as a strategic naval outpost protecting the approaches to the Suez Canal.

**Depth Studies**

# 1: The loss of the American Colonies, 1770-83

* The Seven Year’s war ended in 1763 with the defeat of the French in North America.
* The British government decided that the American Colonists should pay towards the cost of victory.
* Stamp Duty and the Townshend Duties were attempts to recoup the cost, but were very unpopular in the Thirteen Colonies. The centre of resistance to British taxation was in Boston.
* On 10 June 1768, customs officials seized a sloop owned by leading Boston merchant John Hancock, on allegations that the ship had been involved in smuggling.
* Hancock was prosecuted in a highly publicized trial by a admiralty court, but the charges were eventually dropped.
* The British government decided to act and order British regiments to Boston to stamp out the trouble.
* People in Massachusetts learned in September 1768 that troops were on the way to protect the Customs Commissioners.
* Samuel Adams organised an emergency and illegal convention of towns and passed resolutions against the imminent occupation of Boston
* By October 1768, there were four regiments of British troops in Boston. They caused problems for the civilians in the city.
* The boycott was not very effective. British exports to the colonies declined by 38 percent in 1769, but there were many merchants who did not participate in the boycott. The boycott movement began to fail by 1770, and came to an end in 1771.
* Lord North came to power upon Townshend’s death. On 5 March 1770 North proposed the repeal of all duties save that on tea. In April the repeal was passed by Parliament.

Boston Massacre

* On the same day of North’s proposal, the colonists clashed with British soldiers leading to the death of five Americans in Boston.
* The Boston Massacre, as it became known, was a result of the decision to place the American Board of Customs Commissioners in Boston which required the protection of troops.
* On 2 March 1770, workers at a ropewalk (ship-rigging factory) attacked British soldiers seeking jobs.
* On 5 March, a crowd of about 50 people began to throw hard-packed snowballs at a sentry guarding the Customs House.
* One soldier was struck by a club and fired. The rest followed suit. It was a highly symbolic event for Americans.
* An investigation was begun the following day and eight soldiers were arrested and accused or murder.
* In the days and weeks following the incident, a propaganda battle was waged between Boston's radicals and supporters of the government.
* Both sides published pamphlets that told strikingly different stories. These were published in London in a bid to influence opinion there.
* The *Boston Gazette*‍‍ '​‍s version of events, for example, portrayed the massacre as part of an ongoing scheme to ‘quell a Spirit of Liberty’.
* It emphasised the unfortunate negative consequences of quartering troops in the city.

Increased opposition to British rule in the early 1770s

* In September 1771 the Boston Town Meeting formally created a committee of correspondence, which would spread colonial grievances around the towns of the colony.
* In March 1773, the Virginia House of Burgesses recommended that each colony establish a committee of correspondence which would serve as a means of spreading propaganda,
* In May 1773, Parliament introduced the Tea Act. This was designed to save the East India Tea Company by allowing them to avoid duties and therefore undercut the American merchants.
* Tea could be transported directly from India to the American Colonies so bypassing the Navigation Acts.
* In Boston the first of three ships, the *Dartmouth*, arrived in Boston Harbour on November 28. The ships had to unload their cargo within three weeks and pay the duty.
* On 16 December 1773 it was agreed at the Town Meeting, chaired by Samuel Adams, that 60 Sons of Liberty, disguised as Indians, would destroy the tea.
* 342 chests of tea were thrown into the sea worth approximately £10,000.
* Parliament was furious and in March 1774 Lord North proposed four bills that became known as the Coercive Acts. These were intended to punish Boston.
* **Impartial Administration of Justice Act**, which allowed the royal governor of a colony to move trials to other colonies or even to England if he feared that juries in those colonies wouldn't judge a case fairly.
* **Massachusetts Bay Regulating Act** made all law officers subject to appointment by the royal governor and banned all town meetings that didn't have approval of the royal governor.
* **Boston Port Act**, which closed the port of Boston until the price of the dumped tea was recovered, moved the capital of Massachusetts to Salem, and made Marblehead the official port of entry for the Massachusetts colony.
* **Quartering Act**, which allowed royal troops to stay in houses or empty buildings if barracks were not available.

# Quebec Act, which granted civil government and religious freedom to Catholics living in Quebec. This provided an obstacle to western expansion and imposed an authoritarian form of government in Canada. This increased colonial suspicions of British motives.

* By late 1774, British authority had broken down in Massachusetts and the other colonies began to send supplies, through their committees of correspondence, throughout New England to help Bostonians.

**The First Continental Congress**

* The **First Continental Congress** was a meeting of delegates from twelve of the thirteen colonies that met from 5 September 5 to 26 October 26, 1774 in Philadelphia. It was called in response to the Coercive Acts.
* The Congress was attended by 56 delegates appointed by the legislatures of twelve of the thirteen colonies.
* Georgia did not send delegates because it was hoping for British assistance with Native America problems on its frontier and did not want to upset the British.
* The Congress considered options, including an economic boycott of British trade; rights and grievances; and petitioned George III for redress of those grievances.
* Conservatives delegates believed their task was the forging of common policies to pressure Parliament to rescind its unreasonable acts.
* Their ultimate goal was to develop a reasonable solution to the difficulties and bring about reconciliation between the colonies and Britain.
* Radicals, such as Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams and John Adams believed their task to be a decisive statement of the rights and liberties of the Colonies.
* Their ultimate goal was to end the perceived abuses of parliamentary authority, and to retain, in the empire and under the king if possible.
* They claimed constitutional rights on the basis of the colonial charters and the English constitution.
* The Congress also called for another Congress in the event that their petition was unsuccessful.
* Their appeal to the Crown had no effect, and so the Second Continental Congress was convened the following year to organise the defence of the colonies. The delegates also urged each colony to set up and train its own militia.
* The First Continental Congress, in its Declaration and Resolves, passed and signed the Continental Association, which called for a boycott of British goods to take effect in December 1774.
* It requested that local Committees of Safety enforce the boycott and regulate local prices for goods. The trade boycott was to last until Parliament repealed the Coercive Acts.
* North issued a Resolution in February 1775 in order to calm the colonists. He said that Parliament would only raise taxes to regulate trade.
* However, these promises came too late as the committees of correspondence had spread the idea that all taxation from Parliament was unacceptable.

**The creation new state constitutions (NB This section is chronologically inaccurate)**

* On 5 January, 1776, New Hampshire ratified the first state constitution. In May 1776, Congress voted to suppress all forms of crown authority, to be replaced by locally created authority.
* Virginia, South Carolina, and New Jersey created their constitutions before 4 July 4.Rhode Island and Connecticut simply took their existing royal charter and deleted all references to the crown.
* The new states were all committed to republicanism, with no inherited offices.
* They decided not only what form of government to create, and also how to select those who would craft the constitutions and how the resulting document would be ratified.
* There would be no universal suffrage and real power, including the right to elect the future President would still lay in the hands of a few selected elites for many years.

**Divisions between loyalists and rebels**

* Most educated Americans, whether Loyalist or Revolutionary, accepted John Locke's theory of natural rights and limited government.
* The Loyalists, like the rebels, criticized such British actions as the Stamp Act and the Coercive Acts.
* Loyalists wanted to pursue peaceful forms of protest because they believed that violence would give rise to mob rule or tyranny.
* They also believed that independence would mean the loss of economic benefits derived from membership in the British mercantile system.
* Families were often divided as war forced colonists to choose sides in a conflict that remained for many years uncertain.
* Colonists, especially recent arrivals, often felt themselves to be both American and British, subjects of the Crown, still owing a loyalty to the mother country.
* Many opposed taxation without representation, but would not break their oath to the King or take up arms against the Crown.
* Most hoped for a peaceful reconciliation, and were forced by the Patriots who took control nearly everywhere in 1775-76 to choose sides.
* The earliest formal meeting, and use of the term ‘Loyalist’ and the source of the United Empire Loyalist (‘UEL’) acronym, took place in Boston on 28 October 28, 1775.
* At the meeting, these Loyalists formed a society called ‘The Loyalist Associators Desiring the Unity of the Empire’.
* Poor farmers, craftsmen, and small merchants, influenced by the ideas of social equality expressed in works like Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*, were more likely to be Patriots.
* Intellectuals with a strong belief in the Enlightenment and religious converts of the Great Awakening made strong connections between their beliefs and a developing sense of nationalism.
* Loyalists tended to be older colonists, or those with strong ties to England, such as recent immigrants.
* Wealthy merchants and planters often had business interests with the Empire, as did large farmers who profited by supplying the British army.
* Some opposed the violence they saw in groups like the Sons of Liberty and feared a government run by extremists.
* Not surprisingly, most British officials remained loyal to the Crown. Wealthy merchants tended to remain loyal, as did Anglican ministers, especially in Puritan New England.
* Loyalists also included some African-Americans (to whom the British promised freedom), Indians, indentured servants and some German immigrants, who supported the Crown mainly because George III was of German origin.
* The number of Loyalists in each colony varied. Recent estimates suggest that half the population of New York was Loyalist.
* It had an aristocratic culture and was occupied throughout the Revolution by the British.
* In the Carolinas, back-country farmers were Loyalist, whereas the Tidewater planters tended to support the Revolution.

**The escalation of conflict**

**The Quebec Act**

* The Quebec Act was passed in 1774 to tackle the problem of 80,000 French speakers in Canada, but it included the allotting of the Ohio Valley to Canada.
* The colonial governments of New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia were angered because the area had each been granted them in their royal charters. It resulted in the Quebec Act being described as one of the Intolerable Acts by colonists.
* Colonists from Virginia and other colonies were already entering that area. Land development companies such as the Ohio Company had already been formed to sell land to settlers and trade with the Native Americans.
* The Quebec Act was never enforced outside the traditional boundaries of Quebec. Its main significance in the Thirteen Colonies was that it was another source of annoyance.
* The Act is listed as one of the rebels' grievances in the Declaration of Independence.
* For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies.
* The First Continental Congress petitioned Parliament to repeal the Intolerable Acts; Parliament refused. Instead, in February 1775 Parliament passed the Conciliatory Resolution.
* It declared that any colony that contributed to the common defence and provided support for the civil government and the administration of justice would be relieved of paying taxes or duties except those necessary for the regulation of commerce.
* Franklin, Adams and Jefferson produced the Congress’s reply: That colonies of America are entitled to the sole and exclusive privilege of giving and granting their own money.
* This was too little, too late, as the war broke out before news of its passage could reach the colonies.

**General Thomas Gage**

* General Gage was appointed British military governor of Massachusetts in 1774. He withdrew British garrisons from various cities and concentrated them at Boston.
* He also tried to enforce army orders to confiscate of war-making materials. In September 1774, he ordered a mission to remove provincial gunpowder from an arsenal.
* This action, although successful, caused a huge popular reaction known as the Powder Alarm.
* It resulted in the mobilisation of thousands of provincial militiamen who marched towards Cambridge Massachusetts.
* Although the militia soon dispersed, the show of force on the part of the provincials had a lasting effect on Gage, and he subsequently grew more cautious in his actions.
* The rapid response of the provincials was largely due to Paul Revere and the Sons of Liberty. They observed Gage’s action in future and organised counter-measures.

**The outbreak of hostilities**

* In January 1775, Gage received orders from London to take decisive action against the Rebels.
* He heard that militiamen had been stockpiling weapons at Concord and ordered a troop of regulars to march there on the night of 18 April to confiscate them.
* Colonial militiamen at Lexington were dispersed, but at Concord part of the British force was defeated by a stronger colonial militia contingent.
* Colonial militiamen engaged the British column retreating to Boston in a running battle all the way back to Charlestown.
* The Battles of Lexington and Concord resulted in 273 total casualties for the British and 93 for the American rebels.
* Thousands of colonial militia now surrounded Boston and laid siege. 4,500 British reinforcements arrived and Gage issued a proclamation granting a general pardon to all who would demonstrate loyalty to the crown, with the exceptions of John Hancock and Samuel Adams.
* Gage also planned to break the siege by an attack on the rebel camp.. They would then seize the heights on the Charlestown peninsula, including Breed’s Hill and Bunker Hill.
* The colonists were warned of these plans and fortified Breed's Hill, threatening the British position in Boston.
* On 17 June 1775, British forces under General Howe began a bloody frontal assault and, despite a British victory, they suffered a 42% casualty rate.
* Howe took control of the Charlestown Peninsula, but suffered more than 1,000 casualties without significantly altering the state of the siege.

**The Declaration of Independence**

* The Second Continental Congress met at Philadelphia in May 1775. It announced a plan to raise a Continental Army of 20,000 men under the command of George Washington.
* On 6 July, 1775 Congress approved a Declaration of Causes outlining reasons and necessity for taking up arms.
* On July 8, Congress extended the Olive Branch Petition to the Crown as a final attempt at reconciliation. However, it was received too late to do any good.
* An ambassador was sent to France as a minister of the Congress and American ports were reopened in defiance of the Navigation Acts
* The Congress assumed all the functions of a national government, appointing ambassadors, signing treaties, raising armies, appointing generals, obtaining loans from Europe, issuing paper money and authorising spending.
* The Congress had no authority to levy taxes and had to request money, supplies, and troops from the states to support the war effort. Individual states frequently ignored these requests.
* The Olive Branch Petition was, in fact, too late, after Breed’s Hill, both sides had moved towards a major conflict.
* The King issued a Proclamation of Rebellion, and announced before Parliament on October 26 that he was considering ‘friendly offers of foreign assistance to suppress the rebels.
* The British Parliament passed the Prohibitory Act in December 1775. This declared the colonies outside the protection of the King.
* On 10 January 1776 Robert Bell, a Philadelphia printer, published Tom Paine’s *Common Sense*, which proposed independence from the British government and sketched a plan for a republican system. It sold 120,000 copies within a month.

**Growing support for independence**

* Support for declaring independence grew even more when it was confirmed that King George had hired German mercenaries to use against his American subjects.
* Despite growing popular support for independence, Congress lacked the clear authority to declare it.
* Delegates had been elected to Congress by thirteen different governments and were bound by the instructions given to them.
* Delegates could not vote to declare independence unless their instructions permitted such an action.
* Several colonies, in fact, expressly prohibited their delegates from taking any steps towards separation from Great Britain, while other delegations had instructions that were ambiguous on the issue.
* For Congress to declare independence, a majority of delegations would need authorisation to vote accordingly.
* At least one colonial government would need to specifically instruct its delegation to propose a declaration of independence in Congress

**Negotiations in Congress**

* Between April and July 1776, a complex political war was waged to bring this about. At least ninety different declarations were made outlining different instructions to delegates.
* North Carolina was the first colony to officially authorise its delegate to vote for independence in April 1776.
* Some colonies held back from endorsing independence. Resistance was strongest in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.
* Supporters of independence saw Pennsylvania as the key; if that colony could be converted to the pro-independence cause, it was believed that the others would follow.
* Opponents of independence controlled the Pennsylvania Assembly. Congress passed a resolution calling on colonies without a ‘government sufficient to the demands of their affairs’ to adopt new governments.
* The resolution passed unanimously, and was even supported by Pennsylvania. The leader of the anti-independence faction in Congress believed that it did not apply to his colony.
* Congress appointed a committee to draft a foreword to explain the purpose of the resolution. John Adams it and stated that because King George had rejected reconciliation and was hiring foreign mercenaries to use against the colonies,
* Adams’ aim was to encourage the overthrow of the governments of Pennsylvania and Maryland, which were still under proprietary control.
* Congress passed the preamble on 15 May after several days of debate, but four of the middle colonies voted against it, and the Maryland delegation walked out in protest.
* Adams regarded his foreword effectively as an American declaration of independence, although a formal declaration would still have to be made.
* On the same day that Congress passed Adams's radical foreword, the Virginia Convention instructed its congressional delegation ‘to propose to to declare the United Colonies free and independent States’.
* The motion, which was seconded by John Adams, called on Congress to declare independence, form foreign alliances, and prepare a plan of colonial confederation.
* Opponents of the resolution, while conceding that reconciliation with Great Britain was unlikely, argued that declaring independence was premature, and that securing foreign aid should take priority.
* Supporters of the resolution argued that foreign governments would not intervene in an internal British struggle and so a formal declaration of independence was needed.
* Delegates from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and New York were still not yet authorised to vote for independence.
* Some of them threatened to leave Congress if the resolution were adopted. Congress therefore voted on 10 June to postpone further discussion for three weeks.
* Congress decided that a committee should prepare a document announcing and explaining independence in the event that the resolution was approved when it was brought up again in July.
* On 14 June, the Connecticut Assembly instructed its delegates to propose independence. On the following day, the legislatures of New Hampshire and Delaware followed suit.
* On 18 June a new Conference of Committees in Pennsylvania instructed delegates to declare independence.
* On 15 June, the Governor of New Jersey was arrested and on 21 June new delegates to Congress were appointed and authorised to support a declaration of independence.
* Maryland finally approved independence on 28 June, but the New York Congress was forced to evacuate the city when British forces advanced.
* The New York delegation was not able to receive any further instructions until after the Declaration of Independence was published.

**Drafting the Declaration**

* On June 11, 1776, Congress appointed a committee consisting of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman to draft a declaration.
* Jefferson wrote the first draft. He probably had limited time for writing over the next seventeen days, and likely wrote the draft quickly.
* He then consulted the others, made some changes, and then produced another copy incorporating these alterations. The committee presented this copy to the Congress on 28 June, 1776.
* For two days Congress methodically edited Jefferson's primary document, shortening it by a fourth, removing unnecessary wording, and improving sentence structure.
* Congress removed Jefferson's assertion that Britain had forced slavery on the colonies, in order to moderate the document and appease persons in Britain who supported the Revolution
* On Monday, 1 July, Congress resumed debate on the resolution of independence.
* After a day of speeches, a vote was taken; each colony cast a single vote. The delegates in each colony voted amongst themselves.
* The New York delegation, lacking permission to vote for independence, abstained. Delaware cast no vote because the delegation was split.
* The remaining nine delegations voted in favour of independence, which meant that the resolution had been approved by the committee of the whole.
* On 2 July, the resolution of independence was adopted with twelve affirmative votes and one abstention. South Carolina and Delaware both changed sides. With this, the colonies had officially severed political ties with Great Britain.
* After voting in favour of the resolution of independence, Congress turned its attention to the committee's draft of the declaration.
* On 4 July, 1776, the wording of the Declaration of Independence was approved and sent to the printer for publication.
* After hearing the Declaration, crowds in many cities tore down and destroyed signs or statues representing royal authority. An equestrian statue of King George in New York City was pulled down and the lead used to make musket balls.

# Key military developments

The balance of military power in 1776

* Washington took command of the Continental Army in July 1775 with seventeen thousand poorly trained, poorly equipped and poorly disciplined soldiers.
* The British stayed in Boston during the winter of 1775-76, which gave the rebels time to improve their forces.
* The British had significant advantages including a highly trained army, the world's largest navy and a highly efficient system of public finance that could easily fund the war.
* The British were seriously handicapped by their misunderstanding of the depth of support for the Rebel position.
* Ignoring the advice of General Gage, the government misinterpreted the situation as merely a large-scale riot.
* London decided that by sending a large military and naval force they could overawe the Americans and force them to be loyal again.
* The British government was convinced that the Revolution was the work of a full few miscreants who had rallied an armed rabble to their cause.
* It was expected that the revolutionaries would be intimidate. The vast majority of Americans, who were loyal but cowed by the terrorist tactics would rise up, turn against the rebels, and restore loyal government in each colony.
* In fact, there was widespread support for independence and colonial militias showed that they were capable of facing British troops.
* Numerically, the British were far outnumbered, if their forces were able to win swift battles, it was likely that the rebels would be defeated.
* Distances in the Colonies were vast and the British forces were soon over-stretched as they tried to control the long Atlantic coastline.
* British forces were also hindered by Howe’s failure to pursue the Rebels in 1776-7. Not only did he allow Washington to escape several times, but he allowed the Rebels to build up support.
* The longer the war went on, inevitably, the more the balance would shift on the favour of the Rebels.
* Washington forced the British out of Boston in the spring of 1776 and neither the British nor the Loyalists controlled any significant areas.
* The British were massing forces at their naval base at Halifax, Nova Scotia and returned in force in July 1776, landing in New York and defeating Washington's Continental Army at the Battle of Brooklyn in August.
* The British requested a meeting with representatives from Congress to negotiate an end to hostilities.
* A delegation including John Adams and Benjamin Franklin met Howe in New on 11 September, in what became known as the Staten Island Peace Conference.
* Howe demanded a retraction of the Declaration of Independence, which was refused, and negotiations ended.
* The British then took control of New York City and nearly captured Washington's army. This could have been the turning-point of the war.
* They made New York their main political and military base of operations in North America and held it until November 1783.

The conduct of the war

* Congress decided that it would invade Canada in 1775. This would be a two-pronged attack under General Schuyler (replaced by Montgomery) and Benedict Arnold.
* The British commander, General Guy Carleton, defended Quebec and when British reinforcements arrived the Americans were forced to retreat.
* On 4 March 1776 the rebels (17,000) captured Dorchester Heights that overlooked Boston. The British were forced to retreat to Halifax, Nova Scotia, under General Howe along with 1,000 loyalists.
* Howe decided to take control of New York with 30,000 soldiers and the Royal Navy behind him. The rebel commander had 17,000 troops at his disposal.
* During July and August 1776 the Battle of Long Island took place. By the end of July Colonel John Glover’s Continental Army was forced into retreat with 9,000 men to Manhattan.
* General Howe remained complacent and chose not to pursue the rebels and take Philadelphia (the capital).
* This gave Washington time to regroup and his army grew to 6,000. He had military success at Trenton on 26 December 1776 and Princeton on 3 January 1777.
* A new two-pronged British campaign began in 1777. The capture of Philadelphia began on 11 September 1777 when General Howe defeated Washington at Brandywine Creek (the American’s lost 1,200 and the British lost 600).
* He then moved on to capture Philadelphia on 26 September 1777, and Congress quickly fled to Lancaster.
* Howe again remained complacent and, after capturing the forts on the Delaware, which allowed naval access, forcing Washington’s retreat to Valley Forge, he prepared for winter.
* At the same time, General Burgoyne planned to lead a combined force of British regulars, supported by Hessians, Indians, Canadians and loyalists south from Montreal to join with British forces in New York.
* Burgoyne was expecting the support of General Howe from New York but he was focusing on Philadelphia.
* He was also hoping for support from a diversionary force of 1,600 British and Iroquois under Colonel St Leger.
* However, St Leger was checked at Oriskany (6 August) by local militia. He was forced to retreat to Canada. This left Burgoyne isolated.
* Burgoyne and his 8,000 regular and irregular soldiers had departed from Montreal in mid-June. They recaptured Ticonderoga.
* Things began to go wrong in August when Burgoyne marched south from Lake Champlain. He sent off a foraging force that was destroyed in a battle at Bennington (August 16).
* By mid-September he decided to march alone to Albany. He had two clashes with the Continental Army (losing 1,200 men in comparison to 500 rebels) and was forced to surrender with 5,000 men at Saratoga to the American Horatio Gates.
* News of the Saratoga surrender was a great morale booster for the Americans and persuaded the French to intervene.
* From early October 1777 until November 15 a siege at Fort Mifflin, Philadelphia, bogged down British troops.
* It allowed Washington time to preserve the Continental Army by leading his troops to harsh winter quarters at Valley Forge. Another crucial moment to destroy the rebel forces was lost.

French and Spanish intervention 1778-1781

* Treaties between the United States and France were signed in February 1778. Spain added its support to France by entering an alliance in 1779 and the Netherlands in 1780.
* This altered the nature and scope of the war for Britain. They now had to protect the West Indies, Africa and India, as well as protect the British Isles from a Franco-Spanish invasion.
* This meant spreading out resources. In 1778, 65% of the British Army was in North America. This fell to 29% in 1780, as 55% guarded Britain against invasion.
* The Royal Navy also had to redeploy its forces. In 1778, 41% of the Royal Navy’s ships were in American waters, but that figure was reduced to 10% by April 1782.
* This globalisation also meant a strategy change. The war against France now took priority and the campaign’s objectives altered to re-establishing British rule in the southern colonies.
* British strategy in America now concentrated on a campaign in the southern states. With fewer regular troops at their disposal, the British commanders saw the ‘southern strategy’ as a more viable plan.
* The south was perceived as being more strongly Loyalist, with a large population of recent immigrants as well as large numbers of slaves who might be captured or run away to join the British
* Between 1778 and 1780 the British under General Cornwallis and Clinton enjoy some successes in the south.
* They took Georgia and the major ports of the Carolinas. A major morale boost was achieved when Benedict Arnold changes sides and almost managed to hand over the fortress of West Point to the British.
* However, by 1781 Cornwallis has failed to take complete control of the interior and left the loyalists in Georgia and South Carolina to support themselves.
* Until this point, the French fleet have been more concerned with protecting the West Indies and had sent fewer than 10,000 men to America.
* However, in 1780 the French begin to add greater support to the Americans. They sent five battalions of infantry and artillery to Rhode Island in 1780.
* In May 1781, the French fleet commander, Admiral de Grasse, was on his way to Washington, the French army under Count Rochambeau marched south to join Washington and Lafayette’s Continental Army and the fleets of Admiral Comte de Barras were at Newport.
* The combined French-American army of 17,000 troops reached Virginia in early September and faced Cornwallis’ troops (he had around 32,000).
* The British fleet was forced to retreat on 5 September 1781 and the French now controlled Chesapeake Bay.
* Cornwallis waited for support from Clinton, but there was a delay in the dispatch of a relief force from New York.
* On 19 October 1781, four years and two days after the surrender at Saratoga, and three weeks of battle, Cornwallis surrendered.
* There was very little enthusiasm left for the war in Britain. On 27 February 1782, Parliament voted to end offensive operations in America. The Peace of Paris was signed on 3 September 1783.

George Washington as war leader

* One of the reasons the Americans won the War of Independence was the quality of their leadership, particularly George Washington.
* Congress appointed Washington as commander of the Continental Army and stuck with him. One of his greatest achievements as General was in keeping his army intact and turning them into a fighting force.
* However, as Brogan (2001) has pointed out, ‘Washington cannot honestly be called a great fighting general, though he was a capable and aggressive one’.
* For example, he acted promptly in 1776 when he withdrew his troops through New Jersey and Pennsylvania to avoid being trapped in New York.
* He also took advantage of opportunities such as the lack of action on Howe’s part after taking New York. He successfully attacked Trenton and Princeton.
* It is important to note, however, that he was not a military genius and lost more battles than he won.
* He planned a surprise counter-attack at Germantown on 4 October 1777, which was too complicated and caused the loss of 1,000 Americans (twice the British number).
* Washington’s other achievement was as a morale booster and he created unity by rallying his troops around the ‘glorious cause’ he treasured (liberty).
* This ‘glorious cause’ and skilled leadership helped his army to survive a difficult winter in 1777-78 when they were trapped at Valley Forge and 3,000 men died or deserted.
* He acted as a uniting force for the Continental Army and battled for support from Congress and individual colonial governments.
* Washington also took advantage of foreign military experts, such as the Marquis of Lafayette.
* He was prepared to take their advice and was persuaded by the French army commander, Rochambeau, to target Cornwallis in 1781.
* At Yorktown, Washington’s plans and timing worked perfectly to force a British surrender on 19 October 1781.

The political and military failures of Britain’s war effort

Quality of British military leadership

* The British generals made a range of mistakes, which at crucial moments left the British looking weak or failing to take advantage of a success.
* The key British generals were Gage, Howe, Burgoyne, Clinton and Cornwallis who all made more mistakes than Washington during the war.
* General Gage had a force of 6,500 men in Boston and took part in a frontal assault at Breed’s (not Bunker) Hill. Gage issued the order to dislodge them.
* It was General Howe who launched a frontal assault on the rebel defences, rather than using the Royal Navy to get men behind the American positions.
* This led to the loss of 1,000 of Howe’s 2,500 men. In comparison, the Americans lost half that number.
* Howe also failed to take advantage of his position. For example, in 1776 when he defeated the Americans at the Battle of Long Island and the capture of New York, he failed to march on to Philadelphia. This gave Washington time to regroup and attack.
* Another problem was the lack of co-ordination between the generals. For example, Burgoyne required Howe’s support in his campaign to march south from Canada to New York.
* However, Howe was pre-occupied with Philadelphia and failed to provide Burgoyne with crucial support leading to the British surrender at Saratoga in October 1777.
* General Clinton showed the same lack of co-operation and support. For example, he failed to launch his move north from New York to support Burgoyne in time.
* In February 1778, General Sir Henry Clinton took over from Howe as commander-in-chief in North America.
* He tried to draw Washington into battle in 1779 without success. He had a difficult task ahead of him.
* One of his problems was that his second in command, General Cornwallis, arrived in July 1779. These two men did not get on but did have some success in the southern colonies.
* Clinton’s main failing was a lack of foresight. Cornwallis was building a base in Yorktown to secure a supply line for the British Navy.
* Clinton believed that the French Navy would not arrive in time to cause a threat to Cornwallis. He was more concerned with a possible attack on New York.
* When the French Navy did arrive unexpectedly under the command of Admiral de Grasse, Clinton failed to send a relief force of 7,000 men until the morning of Cornwallis’ surrender.
* It was this inaction that led to the major British defeat in the American War of Independence.

Reasons for British failure

* The British failed to win the War of Independence because it was a difficult war to carry out in hostile territory where two-fifths of the population were active rebels and only one-fifth were active loyalists.
* One key reason for their defeat was distance from Britain. The British had to conquer thirteen self-governing states at the end of a 3,000-mile supply line.
* This was a major problem because they never succeeded in gaining an adequate foraging area.
* Another problem was the lack of co-ordination between the British forces, which led to major defeats at Saratoga in 1777 and Yorktown in 1781.
* They were also matched against a capable general and unifying agent, George Washington, who remained in charge of the Continental Army throughout the war.
* The final blow to the British was the extension of the war into a global conflict, which meant they had to limit their objectives and ultimately spread their resources too thinly to defeat the rebels.

**Recognition of the new nation**

* Lord North, who had been Prime Minister since 1770, faced increasing pressure to resign after the defeat at Yorktown. British MPs wanted to bring an end to the war.
* His colonial secretary, Germain, resigned on 10 February. By 27 February 1782 the Commons resolved to end military measures in the Americas and on 20 March 1782 North resigned.
* The Marquis of Rockingham, with the Earl of Shelburne as the colonial secretary who favoured peace, replaced Lord North.
* The order to evacuate was issued in April 1782, and by winter, Charleston, Savannah and New York had been left.
* Benjamin Franklin rejected informal peace overtures from Great Britain for a settlement that would provide the thirteen states with some measure of autonomy within the British Empire.
* Franklin insisted on British recognition of American independence and refused to consider a peace separate from France, America’s staunch ally.
* Franklin did agree, however, to negotiations with the British for an end to the war. Joined by peace commissioners John Adams and John Jay, Franklin engaged the British in formal negotiations beginning on 27 September, 1782.

**1783 Peace of Paris**

* The treaty was signed in Paris on 3 September 1783 by Adams, Franklin, Jay, and Hartley.
* The terms included recognition of American independence and agreed the boundaries of the USA, which extended west to the Mississippi River, north to the St Lawrence River and south to the 31st parallel, the northern boundary of Florida.
* This was a generous peace for the British, but Shelburne hoped this might lead to a commercial alliance between America and England.
* Franklin was almost successful in getting Britain to cede Quebec to the United States because he hoped to control all of North America. The British at first agreed, but then rejected the proposal.
* On the same day, Great Britain also signed separate agreements with France and Spain, and (provisionally) with the Netherlands.
* The Congress of the Confederation ratified the Treaty of Paris on 14 January, 1784. British ratification occurred on April 9, 1784, and the ratified versions were exchanged in Paris on 12 May, 1784.

**2: The birth of British Australia, 1788-1829**

* Prisons in the eighteenth century were privately run; they were often full of people imprisoned for debt.
* Hulks, old ships moored in harbours, were used as extra prisons; there was never enough space.
* In the 1720s and 1730s, the colony of Georgia was established in American for transported prisoners.
* After the American Revolution (1775-83), prisoners could no longer be sent to Georgia; a new settlement was needed.
* Alternatives to the American colonies were investigated and the newly discovered and mapped East Coast of New Holland (Australia) was proposed.
* The details provided by James Cook during his expedition to the South Pacific in 1770 made it the most suitable.
* On 18 August 1786, the decision was made to send a party of convicts, military, and civilians to Botany Bay. This was to be a colony, not just a penal settlement.
* There were 775 convicts on board six transport ships. They were accompanied by officials, crew and marines and their families and own children, a total of 645 people.
* There were two naval escorts and three storeships. The fleet assembled in Portsmouth and set sail in May 1787.
* The fleet arrived at Botany Bay in January 1788. It soon became clear that it would not be suitable for the establishment of a colony.
* The governor decided to look Port Jackson, a bay mentioned by Captain Cook, about nine miles north. This proved ideal. The governor named Sydney Cove.

**Instructions given to the Governor Arthur Philip**

* The governor was to ensure that the convicts were to stay in the new land, apart from the distance from England.
* The convicts were to be given grants of land after their sentences had been fulfilled.
* Land grants were to be given plus support from the government for a period of up to a year or even two if necessary after successful completion of the sentence.
* The marines were also to receive help during their stay and even land grants if they wished to stay.
* Convicts were to be rehabilitated by both force and encouragement as long as they stayed away from England.

**The main features of Botany Bay**

* There was a high death rate amongst the members of the first fleet due mainly to shortages of food.
* The ships carried only enough food to provide for the settlers until they could establish agriculture in the region.
* There were insufficient skilled farmers and domesticated livestock to do this, and the colony waited on the arrival of a further fleet.
* The tools sent with the First Fleet were of poor standard, with only twelve carpenters amongst the vast number of convicts.
* Women’s clothing was also of poor quality and quantity plus old aged and ailing convicts were sent.
* The second fleet was a disaster; it brought mostly sick and dying convicts, which actually worsened the situation in Port Jackson.
* A further fleet arrived in 1791, and the first free settlers arrived in 1793.
* From 1788 to 1823, the Colony of New South Wales was officially a penal colony comprised mainly of convicts, soldiers and the wives of soldiers.

**Who were the convicts?**

* The vast majority of the convicts to Australia were English and Welsh (70%), Irish (24%) or Scottish (5%).
* Some convicts had been sent from various British outposts such as India and Canada.
* There were also Maoris from New Zealand, Chinese from Hong Kong and slaves from the Caribbean.
* A large number of soldiers were transported for crimes such as mutiny, desertion and insubordination.
* Most of the convicts were thieves who had been convicted in the great cities of England.
* Only those sentenced in Ireland were likely to have been convicted of rural crimes.
* Transportation was a simple way to deal with increased poverty and the severity of the sentences for larceny.
* Simple larceny, or robbery, could mean transportation for seven years. Compound larceny (pickpocketing), stealing goods worth more than a shilling (5p) meant death by hanging.
* Men had usually been before the courts a few times before being transported, whereas women were more likely to be transported for a first offence.
* The early convicts were all sent to the colony, but by the mid-1800s they were also being sent directly to other destinations. Twenty per cent of these first convicts were women.

**What work did convicts do?**

* The majority of women convicts and many free women seeking employment, were sent to the 'female factories' as unassigned women.
* The female factories were originally profit-making textile factories. The Parramatta Factory grew as an enclave for pregnant women and also served as an orphanage from the 1830s.
* Governor Philip (1788–1792) founded a system of labour in which people, whatever their crime, were employed according to their skills.
* Educated convicts were set to the relatively easy work of record-keeping for the convict administration.
* Women convicts were assumed to be most useful as wives and mothers, and marriage effectively freed a woman convict from her servitude.
* From 1810, convicts were seen as a source of labour to advance and develop the British colony.
* Convict labour was used to build roads, causeways, bridges, courthouses and hospitals. Convicts also worked for free settlers and small land holders.
* The employment of convicts by private employers expanded in the 1820s and 1830s; this became the major form of employment.
* Convicts formed the majority of the colony's population for the first few decades.
* By 1821 there was a growing number of freed convicts who were appointed to positions of trust and responsibility as well as being granted land.

**Treatment of convicts**

* On arrival in Australia each convict was registered, asked his/her place of origin, religion, whether they could read and write and their previous job.
* They were also physically inspected for any outstanding marks which could be used to identify them should they escape.
* The first convicts built the infrastructure for the penal colony in Botany Bay and later for other settlements and penal stations.
* There was a need for labour both within the colonial system, such as clerks, and for domestic and rural labour in outer areas where the land was being opened up by free settlers.
* Female convicts who had been house maids, dairy women etc were assigned to households both within the growing urban areas and the rural.
* A male convict who had experience as a baker, carpenter, shepherd and so forth would be assigned to do similar work for his master/mistress.
* The assignment system enabled Britain to expand within Australia relatively quickly.
* Masters/mistresses were responsible for giving the correct rations and clothing and allowing sufficient rest hours
* Many convicts were abused by their masters/mistresses, but they did have the right to have their complaint heard.
* Women with children or who had given birth on the voyage or while assigned were re/assigned and the children taken into orphanages.
* Women who gave birth stayed with their children until they were weaned; the babies were then kept in the nurseries. If they survived, at the age of two they went to the orphanages.
* If the mother had regained her freedom she could claim her children back to live with her, the problem being, of course, that she be able to actually house and feed them.
* Convicts could ask for permission to marry while still under sentence, but again sustaining a family was not easy, even once free.

**Food**

* **Breakfast:**A roll and a bowl of skilly, a porridge-like dish made from oatmeal, water, and if they were lucky, scrapings meat.
* **Lunch:**A large bread roll and a pound of dried, salted meat.
* **Dinner:** One bread roll and, if they were lucky, a cup of tea.

### Convict Clothing

* Until 1810 convicts were permitted to wear ordinary civilian clothes in Australia. From 1810, convicts were set apart from the increasing numbers of free settlers.
* The distinctive new uniform marked out the convicts very clearly. The trousers were marked with the letters PB, for Prison Barracks.
* They were buttoned down the sides of the legs, which meant they could be removed over a pair of leg irons.

### Convict Class System

* A class system evolved amidst the convict community. The native born children of convict couples were known as ‘currency’. The children of officials were known as ‘sterling’.
* **A wealthy class of ‘Emancipists’** (former convicts) appeared when the Governor began to integrate reformed convicts into society.
* These Emancipists, who often employed convicts in their turn, were very much despised by the soldiers and free-exclusives who had come to Australia of their own free will.

### Convict Housing

* For those convicts who remained in Sydney, lodgings were available in a neighbourhood called **The Rocks**.
* It was a fairly free community with few restrictions on daily life. Husbands and wives could live together and businesses were opened by convicts still under sentence.
* The Rocks became notorious for drunkenness, prostitution, filth and thieving.
* In 1819, **Hyde Park Barracks were built,** which afforded greater security.
* Those sent to work in other towns or in the bush were often given food and lodging by their employer.
* The road projects and penal colonies offered far less comfortable accommodation, often with 20 sweaty bodies crammed into a small hut.

**Release**

* Good behaviour meant that convicts rarely served their full term and could qualify for a Ticket of Leave, Certificate of Freedom, Conditional Pardon or even an Absolute Pardon.
* These would allow convicts to earn their own living and live independently.
* For the period of the sentence, they were still subject to surveillance and the ticket could be withdrawn for misbehaviour.
* This sanction was found to work better in securing good behaviour then the threat of flogging.
* Ticket of leave licences were developed to save money, but became a central part of the convict system.
* The first tickets of leave were issued to convicts who seemed able to support themselves, in order to save on providing them with food from the government store.
* The tickets were then used as a reward for good behaviour and special service, such as informing on bushrangers.
* Gentlemen convicts were issued with tickets on their arrival in the colony although later it was ordered that a convict had to serve at least three years before being eligible.
* Convicts normally sentenced to seven year terms could qualify for a Ticket of Leave after four years.
* Those serving 14 years could expect to serve between six to eight years.
* 'Lifers' could qualify for their 'Ticket' after about 10 or 12 years.
* Those who failed to qualify for a pardon were entitled to a Certificate of Freedom on the completion of their term.
* The convict was then free to become a settler or to return to England.
* Convicts who misbehaved were often sent to a place of secondary punishment such as Tasmania or Norfolk Island where they would be put in solitary confinement.
* In the mid–1830s only around six per cent of the convict population was 'locked up'.
* The majority working for free settlers and the authorities around the nation.
* Convicts were often subject to cruelties such as leg-irons and the lash. They could work for 12-14 hours a day
* Until the late 1830s most convicts were either retained by Government for public works or assigned to private individuals as a form of indentured labour.
* From the early 1840s the Probation System was employed, where convicts spent an initial period, usually two years, in public works gangs outside the main settlements.
* They were then freed to work for wages within a set district.

**Medical treatment**

* Once on the convict transport and afterwards in Australia the convicts had access to medical treatment and to a regular diet.
* This would not be the case in their place of origin or even necessarily in the overcrowded gaols in Britain.

**Advantages of life in the penal colony**

* The daily diet of a convict while in transport and afterwards was far better than what would have been the case in Britain.
* Longevity was longer for convicts and ex-convicts than for people in Britain.
* If convicts followed the rules, they had a very good chance of making new lives for themselves.
* That would have been almost impossible in Britain given both the stigma of having being in gaol and the very hierarchical nature of English society.
* Upward mobility for an ex-convict was well nigh impossible in England, in Australia it became a definite possibility.

**Lachlan Macquarie**

* Macquarie was appointed Governor of New South Wales in 1809. His first task Macquarie had to tackle was to restore orderly, lawful government and discipline in the colony.
* There had been a rebellion 1808 against Governor Bligh. Macquarie cancelled all decisions taken by the rebel government.
* Macquarie took control of the colony, breaking the power of the Army officers who had been the colony's *de facto* ruler since Bligh's overthrow.

**Treatment of emancipists**

* By 1810, emancipists had outnumbered the free settlers; Macquarie appointed emancipists to government positions.
* He appointed an emancipist as a magistrate and invited emancipists to tea at Government House.
* In exchange, Macquarie demanded that the ex-convicts live reformed (Christian) lives.
* He required that former convicts regularly attend church services, and in particular, strongly encouraged formal Christian (Anglican) marriages.
* In 1812, an inquiry into the convict system in Australia supported in general Macquarie's liberal policies.
* However, the committee thought that fewer tickets of leave should be issued and opposed the governor having the power to grant pardons.
* The committee concluded that the colony should be made as prosperous as possible so as to provide work for the convicts and to encourage them to become settlers after being given their freedom.

**Expansion**

* On a visit of inspection to the settlement at Hobart in 1811, Macquarie was appalled at the ramshackle arrangement of the town.
* He ordered the government surveyor  to survey a regular street layout. This survey determined the form of the current centre of the city of Hobart.
* Macquarie encouraged exploration the colony. In 1813 he authorised the crossing of the Blue Mountains.
* He then ordered the establishment of Bathurst, Australia's first inland city.
* He appointed John Oxley as surveyor-general and sent him on expeditions up the coast of New South Wales and inland to find new rivers and new lands for settlement.
* Oxley discovered the rich regions of Northern New South Wales and explored the present site of Brisbane.

**Troubles with free settlers**

* New South Wales suffered severe drought in 1812 and 1813, there was widespread loss of crops and livestock.
* By 1814 many farmers were close to insolvency because of the drought and ensuing depression.
* In 1814 a Second Charter of Justice was issued for New South Wales. It defined how the civil court system was to be structured.
* Three new Courts of Civil Judicature were to be established in New South Wales: the Governor's Court, the Lieutenant-Governor's Court and the Supreme Court.
* In 1814, two solicitors, Fredrick Garling and Moore, arrived in New South Wales. English law was to be followed as far as it was possible.
* Where new ordinances or laws were needed, they were to be consistent with English laws as far as the particular circumstances of the colony would allow.
* Many of the settlers were discontented with this, because they questioned whether some of the governors' ordinances were, in fact, valid.
* Claims were made in New South Wales and in England that governors were exceeding their authority by making ordinances that were in conflict with English laws.
* In 1816, he enforced his new proclamation against trespassing on the Government Domain by having three trespassers (all free settlers) flogged.
* Open conflict broke out between the indigenous population and Governor Macquarie's administration, commencing in 1814 and continuing for at least two years.
* Leaders of the free settler community complained to London about Macquarie's policies, and in 1819 the government appointed an English judge, to visit New South Wales and report on its administration.
* The judge generally agreed with the settlers' criticisms, and his reports on the colony led to Macquarie's resignation in 1821.

**Reforms**

* Macquarie produced the first official currency specifically for circulation in Australia.
* Foreign coins were common in the early years of the New South Wales colony but much of this coin left the colony as a result of trade with visiting merchant ships.
* To secure a reliable supply of coins, in 1812 Macquarie purchased 40,000 Spanish dollars coins and cut the centres out of the coins and counter stamped as belonging to the colony of New South Wales.
* In 1815, the end of the Napoleonic Wars brought a renewed flood of both convicts and settlers to New South Wales.
* There was a rapid increase in population and economic activity. By the time of his departure for London on 15 February 1822, the ‘white’ population had reached an 'estimated' 36,969.

**Sydney**

* The street layout of modern central Sydney is based upon a street plan established by Macquarie.
* The colony's most prestigious buildings were built on Macquarie Street. These buildings were constructed by Macquarie.
* They were in defiance of the British government's ban on expensive public building projects in the colony.
* They reflect the tension between Macquarie's vision of Sydney as a Georgian city and the British government's view of the colony as a dumping ground for convicts to be financed as cheaply as possible.
* Another fundamental reform initiated by Macquarie of enduring significance was made on 15 August 1820, when he ordered all traffic on New South Wales roads to keep to the left.
* The origin of the name ‘Australia’ was first used in an official despatch by Macquarie in 1817.
* Macquarie's policies, his championing of the emancipists and the lavish expenditure of government money on public works, aroused opposition both in the colony and in London.
* Despite opposition from the British government, Macquarie encouraged the creation of the colony's first bank, the Bank of New South Wales, in 1817.

**Treatment of Aborigines in New South Wales**

* Macquarie ordered punitive expeditions against Aboriginal people. However, he developed a strategy of nominating a 'chief' to be responsible for each of the clans.
* Macquarie also began to return land to Aboriginal control, commencing with areas surrounding Broken Bay and Georges Head.
* In 1814 Macquarie founded the Native Institution in Parramatta for the education of Aboriginal children.
* Aboriginal children were enrolled in the school, sometimes forcibly, and were brought up in accordance with European education and culture.
* Although the children in the School were well treated, their forced enrolment and subsequent European social education was a conscious attempt to reduce the influence and future of indigenous culture.

**Hawkesbury River**

* In 1789, two expeditions explored the Hawkesbury to the northwest of Sydney and the Nepean River to the southwest.
* The Hawkesbury River was one of the major routes for transporting food from the surrounding area to Sydney during the 1800s.
* Boats would wait in the protection of Broken Bay and Pittwater, until favourable weather allowed them to make the ocean journey to Sydney.

**Macquarie towns**

* The Five Macquarie Towns is the collective term for the towns located on and around the Hawkesbury River.
* All five towns were established in December 1810 by Governor Macquarie. They were established the towns on higher ground following serious flooding.
* This was important as the area provided the colony of New South Wales with half its annual grain requirements.

**Treatment of Aborigines in Tasmania**

* A small military outpost was established in Tasmania in 1803. There were several violent confrontations with local Aboriginal clans.
* The first lieutenant governor arrived in February 1804 with instructions from London that any acts of violence against the Aboriginal people by Europeans were to be punished.
* A wave of violence erupted during a drought in 1806–7 as tribes in both the north and south of the island killed or wounded several Europeans.
* The arrival of 600 colonists between 1807 and 1813 increased tensions as they established farms along the River Derwent.
* They attacked Aboriginal camps at night, slaughtering parents and abducting the orphaned children as their servants.
* The attacks led to raids on settlers' cattle herds in the southeast. Between 1817 and 1824 the colonial population rose from 2000 to 12,600.
* By 1823, the Settled Districts accounted for 30 per cent of the island's total land area.
* The rapid colonisation transformed traditional kangaroo hunting grounds into farms with grazing livestock as well as fences, hedges and stone walls.
* Police and military patrols were increased to control the convict farm labourers.
* From 1825 to 1828, the number of native attacks more than doubled each year, raising panic among settlers. By 1828, colonists had no doubt they were fighting a war.
* Governor George Arthur issued a proclamation on his arrival that placed Aboriginal people under the protection of British law.
* He threatened prosecution and trial for Europeans who continued to attack Aborigines.
* During the summer of 1826–7 clans from the Big River, Oyster Bay and North Midlands nations speared a number of stock-keepers on farms.
* They made it clear that they wanted the settlers and their sheep and cattle to move from their kangaroo hunting grounds.
* Settlers responded vigorously, resulting in many mass-killings, though this was poorly reported at the time.
* In November 1826, Arthur issued a government notice setting out the legal conditions under which the colonists could kill Aboriginal people when they attacked settlers or their property.
* In December 1826, a group threatened a farm overseer at Bank Hill farm at Orielton.
* In April 1827 two shepherds were killed at Hugh Murray's farm at Mount Augustus near Campbell Town, south of Launceston.
* A party of settlers with a detachment of the 40th Regiment launched a reprisal attack at dawn on an undefended Aboriginal camp, killing as many as 70 Aboriginal men, women and children.
* From December 1826 to July 1827 more than 200 Aboriginal people were killed in the Settled Districts in reprisal for their killing of 15 colonists.
* Between September 1827 and the following March, at least 70 Aboriginal attacks were reported throughout the Settled Districts, taking the lives of 20 colonists.
* By March 1828 the death toll in the Settled Districts for the 16 months since Arthur's November 1826 official notice had risen to 43 colonists and probably 350 Aboriginal people.
* Arthur issued a proclamation in April 1828 that divided the island into two parts to regulate and restrict contact between blacks and whites.
* The northeast region was an area traditionally visited by many groups for its rich food reserves, and rivers, estuaries and sheltered bays as well as its mild climate. It was also largely unoccupied by colonists.
* Arthur enforced the border by deploying almost 300 troops at 14 military posts along the frontier and within the Settled Districts.

**The spreading impact**

* In 1803, a penal colony was established in Van Diemen’s Land. From the 1830s to 1853, Van Diemen's Land was the main penal colony in Australia.
* About 75,000 convicts were sent to Van Diemen's Land. This is about 40% of all convicts sent to Australia.
* Male convicts were paid for being servants or farm workers to free settlers, or in work groups on public works.
* The most difficult convicts were sent to the Port Arthur. Convicts who did more crimes were also sent there.
* Female convicts worked as servants in free settler's houses or were sent to a female factory (women's workhouse prison). There were 5 female factories in Van Diemen's Land.
* Convicts who had finished their time in prison or had been well behaved and given a ticket-of-leave often left Van Diemen's Land. Britain stopped sending convicts to Tasmania in 1853.

**Western Australia**

* In 1826, the Governor of New South Wales ordered the establishment of a settlement at King George's Sound.
* An army detachment was sent from Sydney with eighteen soldiers, one captain, one doctor, one storekeeper and twenty-three convicts.
* On 21 January 1827, the whole of Australia was finally claimed as British territory when Major Lockyer formally annexed the western portion of the continent in a ceremony on King George Sound.
* The first significant European settlements were established on the Swan River in 1829.
* In March 1831 the penal settlement was withdrawn, and the control of King George's Sound was transferred to the Swan River Colony.

**Reforms in the 1830s**

* At first discipline was very harsh, but in the 1830s, the governor 'The Magistrates Act' limited the sentence a magistrate could pass to fifty lashes.
* The number of convicts each employer was allowed to employ was limited to seventy.
* Legal rights were granted to freed convicts and they were allow to own property and serve on juries.

**The end of transportation**

* The abolition of slavery in 1833 had an impact on transportation, which seemed like a form of slavery.
* The increasing numbers of free migrants made transportation embarrassing.
* The reforms introduced by Sir Robert Peel in the 1820s led to changes in attitudes to prisons and punishment.
* Prisons in Britain were reformed from 1842 after the building of Pentonville
* Transportation to New South Wales was stopped in 1840 and finally abolished in 1850; in other penal colonies it ended in 1868. By then, 165,000 had been sent to Australia.

**3: Learning from past mistakes: Canada and the Durham report**

**Upper and Lower Canada**

* The constitutions of Upper and Lower Canada were based on the principle of a balance of monarchy, aristocracy and democracy.
* The colonies’ non-elective Legislative Councils were dominated by local oligarchies that controlled local trade and the institutions of state and religion.
* Both government were ‘Tory’ and were opposed by a Reform opposition that demanded a radically more democratic government than existed in each colony.
* The governments in both provinces were viewed by the Reformers as illegitimate.
* In mainly British Upper Canada, the main complaint was against the dominant ‘Family Compact’.
* In Lower Canada, the situation was made more complex by rivalry between British and French colonists and the Catholic clergy, which supported the continuation of a feudalistic, agrarian society.
* The Clergy discouraged economic and political liberalisation and thwarted the ambitions of the rising French-Canadian middle class, which was largely spearheading demands for reform.
* The Lower Canada rebellion was widely supported by the populace, resulting in mass actions over an extended period of time, such as boycotts, strikes and sabotage.
* These drew harsh punitive responses such as the burning of entire villages by government troops and militias, which had been concentrated in Lower Canada to deal with the crisis.
* The Upper Canada Rebellion was not as broadly supported by local populations, was quickly quelled by relatively small numbers of pro-government militias and volunteers.
* In Upper Canada the 1836 elections had been marred by political violence and fraud organized by the new Lt. Governor.
* The Tories passed a bill allowing them to continue to sit disregarding the established practice of dissolving the House on the death of a monarch.
* In the midst of this crisis, the Atlantic economy was thrown into recession, with the greatest impact being on farmers.
* These farmers barely survived widespread crop failures in 1836–37, and now faced lawsuits from merchants trying to collect old debts.
* The collapse of the international financial system threatened trade and local banks, leaving large numbers in abject poverty.
* In response, Reformers in each province organized radical democratic ‘political unions’.
* Both organizations became the vehicles for politically organizing protests, and eventually rebellion.
* As the situation in Lower Canada approached crisis, the British concentrated their troops there, making it apparent that they planned on using armed force against the Patriots.
* With no troops left in Upper Canada, an opportunity for a sympathetic revolt was opened.
* The rebellion in Lower Canada began first, in November 1837. The Lower-Canada rebellion probably inspired the much shorter rebellion in Upper Canada.
* The first armed conflict occurred in 1837 when the 26 members of the Patriote movement, who had been charged with illegal activities, refused to give themselves up.
* One escaped to the United States, and other rebels organized in the countryside. They defeated a British force in November 23, 1837.
* The British troops soon forced the rebels back, defeating them in November and December.
* The troops pillaged and ransacked Saint-Eustache. On 5 December, the government declared martial law in Montreal.
* When news of the arrest of the Patriote leaders reached Upper Canada, an armed rebellion started in December 1837. This ended quickly with the Battle of Montgomery’ Tavern.
* Many of the rebels (including Mackenzie) fled to the US and established a short-lived ‘Republic of Canada’.
* In the meantime, US radical republicans formed a small militia and attacked in support of the Canadian Patriots.
* The following year, leaders who had escaped across the border into the United States raided Lower Canada in February 1838.
* Two major armed conflicts occurred when groups of Lower Canadian Patriotes, crossed the Canada–US border.
* They were attempting to invade Lower Canada and Upper Canada, drive out the British army and establish two independent republics.
* A second revolt began in November 1838. It was also crushed by forces of the colonial government.

**The Durham Report**

* The atmosphere in the colonies, upon Durham's arrival was gloomy and bitter. The Patriotes, the Lower Canadian French patriots, had lost over 200 men.
* Durham was a political radical. He supported removing legal restrictions imposed upon Roman Catholics and felt that a universal education system in Britain should be implemented.
* He was a staunch supporter of free trade and backed the Reform Bill of 1832 which expanded the electorate in Great Britain.
* His assessment of the situation recommended more power to the elective assemblies by requiring their support for any individuals chosen by the Governor for the elected council.
* This in effect was the first major step towards responsible government. The Governor would be responsible to the legislative assembly in his choice of the executive.
* The executive would be answerable to the assembly in its actions with their approval and the assembly would be responsible to the voters who elected them.
* His recommendations went one step further in that he believed that local issues and administration should and could be handled by a second level of government on the municipal level.
* This would ensure that purely immediate problems of a town, village or area could be addressed by their municipal level.
* His second concern revolved around his feelings that the existence of two nations, French and English, in one colony,
* Lower Canada was a boiling pot of confrontation. He believed that the problems were racial, not political.
* He recommended that the best solution to Lower Canada's issues would be the assimilation of the French culture, language and civil society.
* The most effective measures to achieve this objective would be to unite Upper and Lower Canada.
* Let the English majority elect and direct government policies and eventually erode French rights, traditions, laws and expectations.
* The immediate reaction to Durham's report in London was to consider the merger of the Canada's and the start of the assimilation process.
* The Colonial Office balked at the extension of responsible government to the colonies. That would have to wait for a more opportune, stable time to begin.
* The same issues and debates also existed in Nova Scotia where Joseph Howe campaigned for responsible government. He was also disappointed at the reaction of the Britain to their desires and Durham's report.

**In his 1839 report, Lord Durham analysed the crisis raging in Lower Canada. In his view, the crisis had two causes:**

* The conflict generated by the presence of an elected assembly and an unelected executive council and the governor's opposition to the assembly
* The coexistence of the French and English populations, causing a ‘conflict of races.

**Lord Durham made three recommendations:**

* The union of Upper Canada ( Ontario) and Lower Canada ( Québec) into a single colony (1840)
* The assimilation of the French Canadians (1840)
* The granting of ministerial responsibility, or responsible government (1848)

**Charles Buller and Edward Gibbon Wakefield**

* When Durham was appointed, he was only prepared to accept the task if Wakefield accompanied him as Commissioner of Crown Lands.
* They both knew that Wakefield would be completely unacceptable to the British government because of his views on colonies.
* Durham planned to announce the appointment only after he had reached Canada.
* Wakefield sailed secretly for Canada in 1838, but before they arrived word had leaked out, and the appointment was forbidden by London.
* Despite this, Durham retained him as an unofficial representative, advisor and negotiator, giving him effectively the same powers he would have had if he been appointed.
* Durham was ill for much of his time in Canada, so a great deal of the credit for the success of his mission belongs to his advisers, Wakefield and Charles Buller.
* The Durham Report was written cooperatively by the three men, Durham, Buller and Wakefield.
* Eventually this report, and its conclusions, became a blueprint for development of British Colonial policy.

**4: Nearly losing an empire: the British in India, 1829-1858**

* India in the first half of the nineteenth century was governed by the East India Company as a private empire.
* It was subject to the overall co0ntrol of the British government and several India Acts, but it maintained its own army and relations with Indian princes.
* There were three presidencies, Bengal, Madras and Bombay; Bengal was senior and was the seat (Calcutta) of the Governor-General.
* The general policy of the East India Company was to introduce European practices to India

**Religion**

* In the late eighteenth century, Protestant missionaries began working throughout India, leading to the establishment of different Christian communities across the Indian Subcontinent.
* In 1793, William Carey, a Baptist minister, arrived in India and in Calcutta and other places as a missionary.
* He started the Serampore College and translated the Bible into Bengali, Sanskrit, and numerous other languages and dialects. He worked in India until his death in 1834.
* The London Missionary Society was the first Protestant mission and established its first station in 1805.
* The main development came as a result of the Charter Act of 1813, which opened India to missionary work.
* Missionaries had some success with high caste Hindus and with Dalits (untouchables). The latter had no real prospects in life and saw Christianity as a better alternative.
* Many Hindus saw Christianity as an attack on Indian traditions and it became a factor in the Sepoy Insurrection in 1857.

**Education**

* Warren Hastings had encouraged the development of education in India and had founded a school in Calcutta to teach Arabic and Persian and Islamic law.
* A Sanskrit college was founded by Cornwallis in Benares and The College of Fort William in Calcutta by Wellesley.
* The College was later to play an important role both in the development of Indian languages and the Bengal Renaissance. More Sanskrit colleges were founded in Pune and Calcutta
* Supporters of these policies became known as ‘Orientalists’; they believed that Company policy should be responsive to the aspirations of Indians.
* From the early nineteenth century, attitudes began to change. The 1813 Charter Act opened India to missionaries and the Evangelical Movement took advantage.
* These changes encouraged the development of ‘Anglicists’, who supported instruction in English to encourage Indians to develop western ideas.
* The Anglicists were not only interested in spreading Christian belief; they also believed in using theology to promote social reform, such as the abolition of slavery.
* In the 1830s, a series of English Christian Colleges was opened in India to prepare Indians for employment in the Company.
* In 1835, English became the language of education in India and Persian was abolished as the official language of the Company’s courts and administration in 1837.
* The English Education Act (1835) allowed the Council of India to reallocate funds from the East India Company to spend on education and literature in India.
* It stated that ‘the great object of the British Government ought to be the promotion of European literature and science among the natives of India; and that all the funds appropriated for the purpose of education would be best employed on English education alone’.
* Schools that taught Indian students in the vernacular could continue and teachers would continue to be paid, but students would receive no grants in the future.
* It banned the Company from spending money on printing ‘oriental works’.
* Finally, it concluded: ‘All the funds which these reforms will leave at the disposal of the Committee be henceforth employed in imparting to the native population a knowledge of English literature and science through the medium of the English language’.

**Reform of Indian practices**

* In the first half of the 19th century, the British legislated against what they considered were iniquitous Indian practices.
* In most cases, the legislation alone was unable to change Indian society sufficiently for reforms to take effect.

**Remarriage of widows**

* Upper-caste Hindu society had traditionally opposed the remarriage of widows in order to protect both what it considered was family honour and family property.
* Widows were required to withdraw from public life and adopt purdah.

**Suttee or Sati**

* Suttee was the Indian practice of a wife cremating herself on her husband’s funeral pyre.
* The British at first tried to regulate it by requiring that it be carried out in the presence of their officials and strictly according to custom.
* Attempts to limit or ban the practice had been made by individual British officers in the eighteenth century, but without the backing of the Company.
* The first formal British ban was imposed in 1798, in the city of Calcutta. The practice continued in surrounding regions.
* In the late, the evangelical church campaigned against *sati*. Leaders of these campaigns both appeared to be motivated by their desire to introduce Indians to Christianity.
* These movements put pressure on the company to ban the act. The Bengal Presidency started collecting figures on the practice in 1813.
* From about 1812, the Bengali reformers started their own campaign against the practice.
* On 4 December 1829, the practice was formally banned in the Bengal Presidency, by the Governor General, William Bentinck.
* The ban was challenged in the courts, and the matter went to the Privy Council in London, but was upheld in 1832. Other company territories also banned it shortly after.

**Thagi**

* ‘Thugs’ were organised gangs of criminals in India who originally preyed upon trade caravans.
* They would strangle and then rob travellers, burying the bodies of their victims beside the road.
* They usually killed their victims in darkness while the Thugs made music or noise to escape discovery.
* One reason given for the Thagi success in avoiding detection and capture so often and over such long periods of time is a self-discipline and restraint in avoiding groups of travellers on shorter journeys.
* Estimates of the total number of victims vary widely. According to the Gunness Book of Records, the Thagi cult was responsible for approximately 2,000,000 deaths.
* One British historian estimates that they killed 50,000 persons in total, based on his assumption that they only started to exist 150 years before their eradication in the 1830s.
* Yearly figures for the early 19th century are better documented, but even they are inaccurate estimates.
* For example, gang leader Bahram has often been considered the world's most prolific serial killer, blamed for 931 killings between 1790 and 1830.
	+ The campaign against Thagi was led by William Sleeman. He was appointed General Superintendent of the operations for the Suppression of Thagi in February 1839.
	+ During these operations, more than 1400 Thugs were hanged or transported. Detection was only possible by means of informers.
* Thagi was suppressed by in India in the 1830s. Reasons for success included:
* The dissemination of reports regarding Thagi across territorial borders, so that each administrator was made aware of new techniques as soon as they were put in practice, so that travellers could be warned and advised on possible counter-measures.
* The use of King’s Evidence procedures gave an incentive for gang members to inform on their peers to save their own lives. This undermined the code of silence that protected members.
* The British set up a dedicated police force, the Dacoity and Thagi Department, and special tribunals that prevented local influence from affecting criminal proceedings.
* The police force applied the new detective methods to record the locations of attacks, the time of day or circumstances of the attack, the size of group, the approach to the victims and the behaviours after the attacks.
* A single informant, belonging to one gang in one region, might yield details that would be applicable to most, or all, gangs in a region or indeed across all India.
* By the 1870s, the Thug cult was extinct.

**Britain and India**

* Many of the British in India worked hard and took their responsibilities very seriously.
* Throughout the nineteenth century, there were many attempts to improve agriculture, education and transport in India.
* By 1900 the British had built 40,000 kilometres (25,000 miles) of railways and 110,000 kilometres (70,000 miles) of canals.
* 14,000,000 acres of land had been irrigated andd 23,000 Indians were attending university.
* India became a vital part of the British economy. India was a vast supplier of raw materials to Britain and bought British manufactured goods in return.
* In the late nineteenth century, Britain’s trade surplus with India was enough to make up more than a third of Britain’s deficit with the rest of the world.
* India was also a major source of manpower for the British army. In both the First and Second World Wars, India provided more than 1,000,000 soldiers for Britain.
* In October 1914, some of the first reinforcements to arrive in Belgium to support the British Expeditionary Force came from an Indian Division which landed at Ostend.
* The British in India kept themselves separate from Indians. There was almost no mixing of British and Indians except for official purposes.
* The term ‘going native’ was used to describe a Briton who had begun to behave like an Indian.
* Some British people objected to being sent to a court where there was an Indian judge.
* Anglo-Indians, people of mixed parentage, were regarded as second class citizens.

**Dalhouise Reforms**

* A department of public works was established in each presidency, and engineering colleges were provided. An imperial system of telegraphs followed.
* The first link of railway communication was completed in 1855, and well-considered plans mapped out the course of other lines and their method of administration.
* Dalhousie encouraged private enterprise to develop railways in India for the good of the people and also to reduce absolute dependence on the government.
* He brought the railways under state control-attempting to bring the greatest benefit to India from the expanding network.
* Railways were created to transport large amounts of natural resources such as coal and metal from inland mined areas to the coast to be exported to Britain.
* In addition, the Ganges Canal was completed; provision was made for metalled roads and bridges.
* He created an imperial system of post-offices, reducing the rates of carrying letters and introducing postage stamps.
* He created the department of public instruction; he improved the system of inspection of goals, abolishing the practice of branding convicts.

**Some of his reforms led directly to the rebellion**

* Europeanisation and consolidation of authority were the keynote of his policy. Dalhousie vigorously asserted his control over even minor military affairs.
* He ordered that all sepoys should serve abroad; this was a key reason for the rebellion.
* He closed the college in Calcutta the education of young civilians, establishing in its place a European system of training.
* Dalhousie disposed large landowners from portions of their estates. He also implemented policies attempting to end the rule of the zamindar tax farmers.
* Thousands of smaller landlords had their holdings completely removed as did the relatively poor who leased small parcels of their land while farming the rest.
* This was particularly significant as the sepoys were often recruited from these economic groups.
* The Doctrine of Lapse stated that if an Indian prince died with no heir or was incompetent, the territory would pass to the East India Company.
* In 1856, it was declared that the Awadh was being mismanaged by its incompetent ruler and so was annexed.
* Awadh was a very rich and probably corrupt Indian state but it was one that was understood and appreciated by its population.
* The British were thought of as inflexible and alien. It was also not appreciated just how large a proportion of the EIC sepoy army came from Awadh.
* They had been happy to take the King's shilling as any mercenary would, but many of them were horrified to find that their own homes had been annexed in such an underhand and unfair way.

**The Indian Rebellion, 1857**

* The British East India Company recruited Indians as troops in its army. The Indian units were called ‘native sepoys’.
* They became the largest part of the British forces in India and outnumbered European troops six to one.
* By the mid-1850s, there were 300,000 Indian troops and about 50,000 British.
* There were a number of minor outbreaks of unrest in the army before 1857, but these had all been quickly and brutally suppressed.
* In Bengal, the Indian soldiers were mainly recruited from high-caste Hindus, who were allowed special privileges.
* The soldiers dined in separate facilities and the army officially recognised Hindu festivals.
* They were also not obliged to serve overseas, which might have been ‘polluting’ for high-caste Hindus.
* The General Service Enlistment Act of July 1856 forced all Indian soldiers to serve overseas in Burma.
* The final spark was provided by the ammunition for the new Enfield rifles, which fired Minié bullets.
* They used paper cartridges that came pre-greased. To load the rifle, sepoys had to bite the cartridge open to release the powder.
* The grease used included tallow supplied by the Indian firm of Gangadarh Banerji & Co.
* By January 1857, rumours were abroad that the Enfield cartridges were greased with animal fat.
* The loading of these rifles entailed the biting of a greased cartridge, which the sepoys feared was made with either cow or pig fat.
* The cow was an animal sacred to the Hindus, and the pig was an animal held unclean by the Muslims.
* There were rumours that the British were trying to destroy the religions of the Indian people.

**Outbreak of the rebellion**

* The East India Company made changes in an effort to stop unrest. It ordered that all were to be free from grease, and that sepoys could grease them themselves.
* The Commander of the army changed the drill for loading so that the cartridge was torn with the hands and not bitten.
* Junior officers reacted harshly to any signs of unrest. In March and April, several Indian soldiers were hanged, others demoted and some regiments disbanded.
* On 24 April, the commanding officer at Meerut, ordered 90 of his men to perform firing drills with the new cartridges. All but five of the men on parade refused.
* On 9 May, the remaining 85 men were court-martialled, and most were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment with hard labour.
* The Indian troops revolted. European junior officers who attempted to deal with the first outbreaks were killed by the rebels.
* The sepoys freed their 85 imprisoned comrades from the jail, along with 800 other prisoners.
* Then they marched to Delhi and placed themselves under the leadership of the Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah. He accepted the role unwillingly.
* Throughout May and June the rebellion spread through the Ganges valley, the Rajputna, Central India, and parts of Bengal.
* The rebellion reached as far as Chittagong (now Bangladesh) in the a east and Lahore (now Pakistan) in the west
* By June, Cawnpore had surrendered and Lucknow, the only British-held outpost in Awadh, was besieged.
* The British took time to react because troops had to be sent out from Britain or diverted from the Crimea and China.
* On 17 July, it was discovered that 200 European men, women, and children had been murdered a month earlier in the mutiny and siege at Cawnpore.
* Suspected mutineers were tied to cannons and executed. Indians who had taken part in the rebellion were often killed on the spot.
* The main centres of the rebellion were back in British control by September 1857; the siege of Delhi ended in the same month. In other areas, fighting continued well into 1858.

**Why did the British retain control?**

* The great majority of Indian troops remained loyal. Three-quarters of the troops that attacked Delhi were Indian.
* The rebels had little military knowledge, few heavy weapons and no real leaders.
* The appointment of Bahadur Shah as a figurehead was pointless because he was an irrelevance.
* Providing the British forces were able to hold on until reinforcements arrived, victory was more or less assured.

**The consequences of the rebellion**

* The Government of India Act, 1858, dissolved the East India Company and its powers over India were transferred to the British Crown.
* A new British government department, the India Office, was created to handle the government of India.
* The Governor-General of India gained a new title, Viceroy of India
* The British administration embarked on a programme of reforms, trying to integrate Indian higher castes and rulers into the government and ending attempts at westernisation.
* The Viceroy stopped land grabs, announced religious tolerance and admitted Indians into civil service.
* In the Bengal Army, the number of native infantry regiments was reduced from 146 in 1857 to 72, and similar reductions took place in the Bombay and Madras armies.
* The number of men in each regiment was also reduced to 600. By 1861, there were about 70,000 British troops to 135,000 native troops, and the British held all the arsenals and the principal forts.
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* The princes, who had generally either sided with the British or had been peutral, were no longer threatened with annexation.
* Bahadur Shah was tried for treason by a military commission assembled at Delhi, and exiled to Rangoon.
* In 1877, Queen Victoria took the title of Empress of India on the advice of Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli.
* The rebellions would be remembered later by some Indian freedom fighters as the first stages of the struggle for independence from colonialism.

**5: The Nile Valley**

**How did Britain acquire interests in the Suez Canal and what was the significance of this?**

* The Ottoman, or Turkish, Empire had been in decline since the 17th century and was referred to by the Tsar as the ‘sick man of Europe’.
* Britain regarded the Middle East and North Africa as being of no direct benefit and generally supported the maintenance of a weak Ottoman Empire as a counter-balance to Russian and French interests.
* Although from the early 19th century the British supported independence movements, such as the Greeks, they did not seek to take over areas belonging to the Ottoman Empire.
* In the late 19th Century the British were afraid that the declining Ottoman Empire would fall into the hands of rival powers and threaten the route to India.
* The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 (designed and built by the French engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps) saw the British buy a controlling interest after initially being against the project.
* Disraeli, the British Prime Minister in the mid 1870’s bought the shares being sold buy the Egyptians whose government was now significantly in debt.
* British and French investment in Egypt followed, but the Egyptian government ran up huge debts in a bid to modernise the country.
* The British and the French organised a financial recovery known as ‘Dual economic control’ which restored stability but caused economic misery to many Egyptians.
* In 1882 Arabi Pasha an Egyptian nationalist led a revolt in which Europeans were killed. The British government decided to take over formal control of Egypt – it was now part of the Empire.
* This was a dramatic policy change for the Prime Minister Gladstone who had promised the reverse Disraeli’s ‘forward’ foreign policy, but was now responsible for a major military intervention and imperial acquisition.
* The French resented Britain’s takeover of Egypt and also clashed with them over the Sudan in the Fashoda incident of 1898.

**How did Britain acquire interests in the Suez Canal and what was the significance of this?**

* The completion of the Suez Canal in 1869 created an important new element for British foreign policy makers.
* The overland route to India had increased in importance from the 1840’s, however this was not suitable for large cargo, mainly communications
* Nevertheless the British were not keen on a canal, fearing that control of it could easily fall into enemy hands. In addition some British engineers doubted it could be completed.
* The result was the Suez Canal was built almost entirely with French expertise and capital, together with Egyptian labour, under the direction of Ferdinand de Lesseps.
* With the advent of new technology steamships were competing with sail and the canal gave them a distinct advantage on the route from Britain to India.
* By 1882, over 5 million tons of shipping went through the canal and 80% of it was British.
* In the meantime Egypt’s economic and financial difficulties had increased. Egypt’s ruler Said had been persuaded by Lesseps to take a 45 % stake in the Suez Canal Company.
* Said’s successor, Ismail, attempted to achieve a dramatic economic advance for his country, investing in transport and agriculture, at the same time as consolidating Egyptian control over Sudan.
* However in order to achieve this he borrowed heavily in Europe at very unfavourable rates and by 1875 he faced bankruptcy and considered selling his shares in the now successful Suez Canal Company to the French.
* The then British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, moved quickly to make an offer and bought the shares for Britain.
* Although they did not give Britain control of the Suez Canal (45% and without voting rights because of Ismail’s remortgaging of them) it became generally believed in Britain that the Suez Canal was now British.
* A French-British plan to re-order Egyptian finances was implemented and this ‘Dual Control’ of Egypt’s government revenue and expenditure lasted from 1878-1882.

**Gladstone**

* The money raised by the sale of the Suez Canal, was only enough to keep the government afloat for a few years.
* In a government reliant on patronage, structural economic reforms were difficult to implement.
* In only a few years the Egyptian government was again in economic difficulties. This time, the British and French governments initiated a stewardship of the finances of Egypt.
* In effect, this stewardship was little more than a joint form of colonisation.
* British and French experts were to be sent to the various ministries in order to take control of day to day business of them.
* The Khedive's unwillingness to agree to such loss of control was rewarded by his forced abdication and replacement by his son Tewfiq.
* In April 1882, France and Great Britain sent warships to Alexandria to bolster the Khedive.
* In turn, Egyptian nationalists spread fear of invasion throughout the country to bolster Islamic and Arabian revolutionary action.
* Tewfiq moved to Alexandria for fear of his own safety as army officers led by Arabi Pasha began to take control of the government.
* By June, Egypt was in the hands of nationalists opposed to European domination of the country and the new revolutionary government began nationalizing all assets in Egypt.
* Anti-European violence broke out in Alexandria, prompting a British naval bombardment.
* The British led an Anglo-Indian expeditionary force at both ends of the Suez Canal in August 1882.
* Simultaneously, French forces landed in Alexandria and the northern end of the canal. Both joined together and manoeuvred to meet the Egyptian army.
* The combined Anglo-French-Indian army easily defeated the Egyptian Army at Tel El-Kebir in September and took control of the country putting Tewfiq back in control.
* The purpose of the invasion had been to restore political stability to Egypt under a government of the Khedive and international controls which were in place to streamline Egyptian financing since 1876.

**The veiled protectorate**

* It is unlikely that the British expected a long-term occupation from the outset and their were promises to withdraw
* Lord Cromer (Baring), Britain's Chief Representative in Egypt at the time, viewed Egypt's financial reforms as part of a long-term objective.
* Cromer took the view that political stability needed financial stability, and embarked on a programme of long term investment in Egypt's agricultural revenue sources, largest of which, cotton.
* Cromer worked to improve the Nile's irrigation system through multiple large projects such as, the construction of the Aswan Dam, the Nile Barrage, and an increase of canals available to agricultural focused lands.

**The Sudan**

* Muhammad Ahmad was a religious leader who combined personal magnetism with religious zealotry. His aim was to expel the Turks from the Sudan.
* In 1881, Muhammad Ahmad proclaimed himself the Mahdi or ‘expected one’. Some of his most dedicated followers regarded him as directly inspired by Allah.
* He wanted Muslims to reclaim the Quran and hadith as the foundational sources of Islam, creating a just society.
* Specifically relating to Sudan, he claimed its poverty was a virtue and denounced worldly wealth and luxury. Egypt was an example of wealth leading to impious behaviour.
* Early in 1882, his followers, the Ansar, armed with spears and swords, overwhelmed a British-led 7,000-man Egyptian force and seized their rifles, field guns and ammunition.
* The Mahdi followed up this victory by laying siege to Al Ubayyid and starving it into submission after four months.
* The Ansar, 30,000 men strong, then defeated an 8,000-man Egyptian relief force. Next the Mahdi captured Darfur.
* The advance of the Ansar threatened to cut off garrisons at Khartoum and other places in the south.
* To avoid being drawn into a costly military intervention, the British government ordered an Egyptian withdrawal from Sudan.
* Gordon, who had received a reappointment as governor general, arranged to supervise the evacuation of Egyptian troops and officials and all foreigners from Sudan.
* After reaching Khartoum in February 1884, Gordon soon realized that he could not extricate the garrisons.
* As a result, he called for reinforcements from Egypt to relieve Khartoum. Gordon argued that Sudan was essential to Egypt's security and that to allow the Ansar a victory there would invite the movement to spread elsewhere.
* Increasing British popular support for Gordon eventually forced Gladstone to mobilize a relief force under the command of Wolseley.
* An advance unit that had gone ahead by river  arrived at Khartoum on 28 January 1885, to find the city had fallen two days earlier.
* The Ansar had waited for the Nile flood to recede before attacking the poorly defended river approach to Khartoum in boats.
* They had, slaughtered the garrison, killed Gordon, and delivered his head to the Mahdi's tent. Bythe end of 1885, the Ansar controlled most of the Sudan. The Mahdi died six months later
* In 1892, Herbert Kitchener became commander, of the Egyptian army and started preparations for the reconquest of Sudan.
* The British thought they needed to occupy Sudan in part because of international developments.
* By the early 1890s, British, French, and Belgian claims had converged at the Nile headwaters.
* In 1898, there was a confrontation between British and French troops at Fashoda; the French withdrew.
* Britain feared that the other colonial powers would take advantage of Sudan's instability to acquire territory previously annexed to Egypt.
* Britain also wanted to establish control over the Nile to safeguard a planned irrigation dam at Aswan.
* In 1895, the British government authorised Kitchener to launch a campaign to reconquer Sudan. Britain provided men and matériel while Egypt financed the expedition.
* The Anglo-Egyptian Nile Expeditionary Force included 25,800 men, 8,600 of whom were British.
* The remainder were troops belonging to Egyptian units. An armed river flotilla escorted the force, which also had artillery support.
* In March 1896, the campaign started by building a narrow gauge railway south along the east bank of the Nile.
* Kitchener captured the former capital of Nbia. The next year, the British then constructed a new rail line directly across the desert.
* There was little other significant resistance until Kitchener reached Atbarah and defeated the Ansar.
* After this engagement, Kitchener's soldiers marched and sailed toward Omdurmann. The Ansar 52,000 man army launched a frontal assault against the Anglo-Egyptian force.
* The outcome never was in doubt, largely because of superior British firepower and Maxim guns. During the five-hour battle, about 11,000 Mahdists died.
* Anglo-Egyptian losses amounted to 48 dead and fewer than 400 wounded.
* Sudan's economy had been all but destroyed during the Mahdi’s reign and the population had declined by approximately one-half because of famine, disease, persecution, and warfare.