

## Knowledge Organiser: Is Niall Ferguson right about the British Empire?



*This unit explores the impact and legacy of the British Empire. We study how the Empire was built and which areas across the globe it affected. We also study ways in which people in the British colonies reacted to or fought back the British Empire. We will use our knowledge to analyse different historians' interpretations of the British Empire.*

### Summarise your learning

<b>Topic 1:</b> How and why did Britain build an Empire?	The British built an Empire through discovery, settlers, war and trade. It became the largest Empire the world has ever known and spanned ¼ of the world.
<b>Topic 2:</b> What were the origins of the British Empire?	The British Empire began in America as Britain tried to imitate the success of Spain. Traders saw the value of goods in the Americas and so established colonies in the New World such as Barbados.
<b>Topic 3:</b> Why did the USA leave the Empire?	American colonies rose up against the British due to financial, political and military reasons. The USA wrote the Declaration of Independence.
<b>Topic 4:</b> How did settler colonialism impact Australia?	The British realised it would be beneficial to colonise Australia because of its climate and land for farming, huge coastline for fishing and whaling, and raw materials. Britain used Australia as a penal colony for convicts. Settlers were also given free transportation and land. However, colonisation was very destructive for the native Aboriginal people.
<b>Topic 5:</b> How did British rule impact India?	The British East India Company came to rule India and established a trading monopoly. They became rich by exporting resources and consumer goods back to England at a profit as well as trading British manufactured goods back to the colonies. The British benefitted from taxes, exotic goods, and job opportunities in the Industrial Revolution. The only people who did not benefit were the indigenous groups living in the colonies. Historians still debate whether British rule was a good or bad thing.
<b>Topic 6:</b> How did Opium cause a war with the Chinese?	When the Chinese resisted the Opium Trade and destroyed all the British Opium, this caused a war. The Chinese Army and Navy were no match for the British and as a result China was forced to sign 'unequal treaties' and give ports and land to Britain.
<b>Topic 7:</b> What was the impact of the 'Scramble for Africa'?	European ambitions for power, money and resources impacted the African continent. This was known as the Scramble for Africa. Cecil Rhodes played an important role in this period.

Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words	
<b>1600</b>	The East India Company is founded.	<b>Empire</b>	A group of states or countries ruled over by one monarch or government.
<b>1607</b>	Jamestown, England's first successful colony in the Americas, is founded.	<b>Colony</b>	An area of a country settled by, and under the control of, people from another country.
<b>1625</b>	Barbados, England's first colony in the West Indies, is colonised.	<b>Imperialism</b>	Extending a country's power and influence through colonization, use of military force, or other means.
<b>1757</b>	Britain gains control of Bengal in the Seven Years War.	<b>Plantation</b>	A huge farm that grows one crop such as cotton, sugar, tobacco etc.
<b>1783</b>	The United States of America gain their independence from Britain.	<b>Independence</b>	Being free of control from another country.
<b>1788</b>	First colonisation of Australia. New South Wales is established as a penal colony.	<b>Monopoly</b>	When one company or person has the sole right to trade a particular good.
<b>1858</b>	Indian War of Independence/Mutiny.	<b>Aborigine</b>	The native and original inhabitants of Australia.
Who were these people/groups?		<b>Penal</b>	Punishing somebody using the legal system.
<b>Niall Ferguson</b>	A historian who argues that the empire enhanced global welfare and was a 'Good Thing'.	<b>Scramble for Africa</b>	The race for different empires to control different parts of the African continent.
<b>David Olusoga</b>	A historian who argues that the empire only focussed on British interests.	<b>Interpretation</b>	A historian's opinion about an event in the past.
<b>Shashi Tharoor</b>	A historian who argues that only the British benefitted from British Rule not Indians.		
<b>The East India Company (EIC)</b>	A joint-stock company that became the most powerful company in the world, ruling much of India.		
<b>Cecil Rhodes</b>	A British imperialist who gained control of huge areas of Africa.		

