

Knowledge Organiser: Is Niall Ferguson right about the impacts of 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		Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words		
Topic 1: America	Before European colonisers arrived in North America, indigenous communities had inhabited this area of the World for centuries. By 1625 however, British colonists had arrived and had begun to permanently settle there. This had devastating impacts on these indigenous communities, socially, environmentally and economically. The permanent British settlers who had colonised these lands began, over time, to see themselves as Americans who wanted to break free of British rule and their unfair trading laws all together. Between 1775 and 1783 the British and new Americans fought in the War of Independence. Ultimately, the Americans won and declared themselves independent from the British Empire.	1600	The East India Company is founded.	Indigenous	The people who originally lived in a place before settlers/colonisers arrived	
	Topic 2: India	India had always been a country rich in culture and history. After the Mughals lost control in the 1600s, Europeans nations began to show more interest in having influence over the country. By 1757, the British 'East India Company', had establish control over India, having taken huge areas of wealthy land for themselves, and protecting it through force and often, violence. There were many rebellions against British rule in India, including the first war of independence in 1857. Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Indian resistance to British rule grew, with Indian participation in both World Wars having a huge impact. In 1946, the British government finally agreed that India would become an independent country.	1607	Jamestown, England's first successful colony in the Americas, is founded.	colonisation	Settling in an area and establishing control over the indigenous people who lived there.
		1757	Britain gains control of Bengal in the Seven Years War.	Empire	A collection of communities, regions or countries that are rules and controlled by one 'leader' country	
		1783	The United States of America gain their independence from Britain.	Resistance	The refusal to accept or comply with something	
Topic 3: Australia		Australia's two indigenous groups are the Aboriginal people and the Torres Strait Islander people, who had lived in Australia for centuries, believing the world around them to be sacred and in need of protection. When British colonisers arrived in Botany Bay in 1788, their lives would be changed forever. The British government began to transport convicts to Australia to build penal colonies and to serve their sentences there, as opposed to in overcrowded British prisons. These convicts permanently settled there and set up colonies. The indigenous peoples suffered greatly, their land had been taken, new diseases were spread which they had no resistance to, and children were stolen from their families and raised by British colonists. Still to this day, indigenous Australians face systematic discrimination.	1788	First colonisation of Australia. New South Wales is established as a penal colony.	Mutiny	A rebellion, often of soldiers, against their leaders or authority
	1858	Indian War of Independence/Mutiny	Aboriginal	The name of the original inhabitants of Australia		
	1879	The Anglo-Zulu war was fought between the Zulus and British colonists in South Africa	Missionary	A person who has ben sent to another country to spread their religion		
	Who were these people/groups?		Niall Ferguson	A historian who argues that the empire enhanced global welfare and was a 'Good Thing'.	Boycott	The refusal to buy products from or have relations with another country as a form of protest
Topic 4: Africa	In 1870, only 10% of the continent of Africa was occupied by European colonies, but by 1900 European countries controlled over 90% of the land. This was called the 'scramble for Africa', where European countries fought to have influence for their own power and global influence. Many African communities resisted British rule and there were a number of rebellions, including the Anglo-Zulu war (1879) and the Boer rebellion 1889. These rebellions were crushed and gradually Britain was in control of 30% of Africa. From the 1920s onwards however, African's would gradually begin to regain their independence. The impact of the World Wars on weakening Britain's economy and global status, combined with African resistance movements, meant that by 1980, Britain last colony in Africa had gained its independence.	David Olusoga	A historian who argues that the empire only focussed on British interests.	Independence	The ability to rule a country without the influence of others	
		Shashi Tharoor	A historian who argues that only the British benefitted from British Rule not Indians.	Interpretation	A historian's opinion about an event in the past.	
		The East India Company (EIC)	A joint-stock company that became the most powerful company in the world, ruling much of India.			
		Robert Clive	A British imperialist who help Britain take control of India			

