

Chapter 1 : Brief History of England - Eupedia

Prehistory & Antiquity. England was settled by humans for at least , years. The first modern humans (homo sapiens) arrived during the Ice Age (about 35, to 10, years ago), when the sea levels were lower and Britain was connected to the European mainland.

Substantial majorities were achieved, and according to contemporary documents this was assisted by bribery in the form of the awarding of peerages and honours to opponents to gain their votes. Ireland thus became an integral part of the United Kingdom, sending around MPs to the House of Commons at Westminster and 28 representative peers to the House of Lords, elected from among their number by the Irish peers themselves, except that Roman Catholic peers were not permitted to take their seats in the Lords. Part of the trade-off for the Irish Catholics was to be the granting of Catholic Emancipation , which had been fiercely resisted by the all-Anglican Irish Parliament. The Roman Catholic hierarchy had endorsed the Union. However the decision to block Catholic Emancipation fatally undermined the appeal of the Union. The United Kingdom in the Napoleonic Wars During the War of the Second Coalition “ , Britain occupied most of the French and Dutch colonies the Netherlands had been a satellite of France since , but tropical diseases claimed the lives of over 40, troops. When the Treaty of Amiens created a pause, Britain was forced to return most of the colonies. In May , war was declared again. This policy aimed to weaken the British export economy closing French-controlled territory to its trade. Napoleon hoped that isolating Britain from the Continent would end its economic dominance. It never succeeded in its objective. Britain possessed the greatest industrial capacity in Europe, and its mastery of the seas allowed it to build up considerable economic strength through trade to its possessions from its rapidly expanding new Empire. The Spanish uprising in at last permitted Britain to gain a foothold on the Continent. The Duke of Wellington and his army of British and Portuguese gradually pushed the French out of Spain and in early , as Napoleon was being driven back in the east by the Prussians, Austrians, and Russians, Wellington invaded southern France. In terms of soldiers the French numerical advantage was offset by British subsidies that paid for a large proportion of the Austrian and Russian soldiers, peaking at about , in The system of smuggling finished products into the continent undermined French efforts to ruin the British economy by cutting off markets. It was willingly supported by hundreds of thousands of investors and tax payers, despite the higher taxes on land and a new income tax. It forbade the import of British goods into European countries allied with or dependent upon France, and installed the Continental System in Europe. All connections were to be cut, even the mail. British merchants smuggled in many goods and the Continental System was not a powerful weapon of economic war. Even more damage was done to the economies of France and its allies, which lost a useful trading partner. The "second war of independence" for the American, it was little noticed in Britain, where all attention was focused on the struggle with France. The British could devote few resources to the conflict until the fall of Napoleon in American frigates also inflicted a series of embarrassing defeats on the British navy, which was short on manpower due to the conflict in Europe. A stepped-up war effort that year brought about some successes such as the burning of Washington, but many influential voices such as the Duke of Wellington argued that an outright victory over the US was impossible. Ratification of the Treaty of Ghent ended the war in February The major result was the permanent defeat of the Indian allies the British had counted upon. The US-Canada border was demilitarised by both countries, and peaceful trade resumed, although worries of an American conquest of Canada persisted into the s. As industrialisation progressed, Britain was more urban and less rural, and power shifted accordingly. Tories feared the possible emergence of radicals who might be conspiring to emulate the dreaded French Revolution. In reality the violent radical element was small and weak; there were a handful of small conspiracies involving men with few followers and careless security; they were quickly suppressed. In reaction to the Peterloo massacre of , the Liverpool government passed the " Six Acts " in They prohibited drills and military exercises; facilitated warrants for the search for weapons; outlawed public meetings of more than 50 people, including meetings to organize petitions; put heavy penalties on blasphemous and seditious publications; imposing a fourpenny stamp act on many pamphlets to cut down the flow on news and criticism.

Offenders could be harshly punished including exile in Australia. In practice the laws were designed to deter troublemakers and reassure conservatives; they were not often used. By the end of the 18th century, along with a general economic recovery, many of these repressive laws were repealed and in new legislation guaranteed the civil rights of religious dissenters. The principle now became established that the king accepts as prime minister the person who wins a majority in the House of Commons, whether the king personally favors him or not. His governments, with little help from the king, presided over victory in the Napoleonic Wars, negotiated the peace settlement, and attempted to deal with the social and economic malaise that followed. His reign saw several reforms: Whig reforms of the 1830s [edit] The Whig Party recovered its strength and unity by supporting moral reforms, especially the reform of the electoral system, the abolition of slavery and emancipation of the Catholics. Catholic emancipation was secured in the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829, which removed the most substantial restrictions on Roman Catholics in Britain. They made Lord Grey prime minister in 1830, and the Reform Act became their signature measure. It broadened the franchise slightly and ended the system of rotten and pocket boroughs where elections were controlled by powerful families, and gave seats to new industrial centres. The aristocracy continued to dominate the government, the Army and Royal Navy, and high society. Chartism emerged after the Reform Bill failed to give the vote to the working class. Elites saw the movement as pathological, so the Chartists were unable to force serious constitutional debate. Historians see Chartism as both a continuation of the 18th-century fight against corruption and as a new stage in demands for democracy in an industrial society.

Chapter 2 : Tudor England: Facts and Information About The Tudors

The Kingdom of Great Britain came into being on 1 May , as a result of the political union of the Kingdom of England (which included Wales) and the Kingdom of Scotland under the Treaty of Union.

The first modern humans homo sapiens arrived during the Ice Age about 35,000 to 10,000 years ago , when the sea levels were lower and Britain was connected to the European mainland. It is these people who built the ancient megalithic monuments of Stonehenge and Avebury. Between 1,000 and 400 BCE, Celtic tribes migrated from Central Europe and France to Britain and mixed with the indigenous inhabitants, creating a new culture slightly distinct from the Continental Celtic one. This was the Bronze Age. The Romans controlled most of present-day England and Wales, and founded a large number of cities that still exist today. London , York , St Albans , Bath , Exeter , Lincoln , Leicester , Worcester , Gloucester , Chichester , Winchester , Colchester , Manchester , Chester , Lancaster , were all Roman towns, as in fact were all the cities with names now ending in -chester, -cester or -caster, which derive from Latin castrum "fortification". The Anglo-Saxons The Romans progressively abandoned Britannia in the 5th century as their Empire was falling apart and legions were needed to protect Rome. With the Romans gone, the Celtic tribes started fighting with each others again, and one of the local chieftain had the not so brilliant idea to request help from the some Germanic tribes from the North of present-day Germany and South of Denmark. These were the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, who arrived in the 5th and 6th centuries. However, things did not happen as the Celts had expected. The Germanic tribes did not go back home after the fight, and on the contrary felt strong enough to seize the whole of the country for themselves, which they did, pushing back all the Celtic tribes to Wales and Cornwall, and founding their respective kingdoms of Kent the Jutes , Essex, Sussex and Wessex the Saxons , and further north East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria the Angles. These 7 kingdoms, which rules over all England from about 450 to AD 1000, were later known as the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy. The Vikings From the second half of the 9th century, the Norse from Scandinavia started invading Europe, the Swedes taking up Eastern Europe, Russia which they founded as a country and the Byzantine Empire, the Norwegians raiding Scotland and Ireland, discovering and settling in the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland and were in fact the first Europeans to set foot in America in AD 1000 , while the Danes wrought havoc throughout Western Europe, as far as North Africa. Another group of Danes managed to take Paris, and obtain a grant of land from the King of France in 911. The Normans After having settled in their newly acquired land, the Normans, adopted the French feudal system and French as official language. During that time, the Kings of Wessex had resisted and eventually vanquished the Danes in England in the 10th century. But the powerful Canute the Great , king of the newly unified Denmark and Norway and overlord of Schleswig and Pomerania, led two other invasions on England in 1016 and 1040, and became king of England in 1016, after crushing the Anglo-Saxon king, Edmund II. He nominated William, Duke of Normandy, as his successor, but upon his death, Harold Godwinson, the powerful Earl of Wessex, crowned himself king. William refused to acknowledge Harold as King and invaded England with 12,000 soldiers in 1066. King Harold was killed at the battle of Hastings by an arrow in the eye, as the legend as it , and William the Conqueror become William I of England. His descendants have sat on the throne of England to this day. William I ordered a nationwide survey of land property known as the Domesday Book, and redistributed land among his vassals. The Norman rulers kept their possessions in France, and even extended them to most of Western France Brittany, Aquitaine English nevertheless remained the language of the populace, and the fusion of English a mixture of Anglo-Saxon and Norse languages with French and Latin used by the clergy slowly evolved into modern English. Richard I "Lionheart" was hardly ever in England, too busy defending his French possessions or fighting the infidels in the Holy Land. During that time, his brother John "Lackland" usurped the throne and startled another civil war. He also happened to be gay, which led to his imprisonment and tragic murder by his wife and her lover see Gloucester. Escaping several assassination attempts, Henry also had to deal with the revolt of Owen Glendower, who declared himself Prince of Wales in 1400, then with the rebellion of the Earl of Northumberland. Henry V , famously defeated the French at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, but his pious and peace-loving son Henry VI , who inherited the throne at just one year old, was to have a much more troubled

reign. The regent lost most of the English possessions in France to a year old girl Joan of Arc and in , the Wars of the Roses broke out. Except for getting married six times, desperate for a male heir, Henry changed the face of England, passing the Acts of Union with Wales , thus becoming the first English King of Wales, then changing his title of Lord of Ireland into that of also first King of Ireland To assure the control over the clergy, Henry dissolved all the monasteries in the country and nationalised them, becoming immensely rich in the process. Henry VIII was the last English king to claim the title of King of France, as he lost his last possession there, the port of Calais although he tried to recover it, taking Tournai for a few years, the only town in present-day Belgium to have been under English rule. It was also under Henry VIII that England started exploring the globe and trading outside Europe, although this would only develop to colonial proportions under his daughters, Mary I and especially Elizabeth I after whom Virginia was named. Mary I , a staunch Catholic, intended to restore Roman Catholicism to England, executing over religious dissenters in her 5-year reign which earned her the nickname of Bloody Mary. Mary died childless of ovarian cancer in , and her half-sister Elizabeth ascended the throne. It was an age of great navigators like Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh see Plymouth , an age of enlightenment with the philosopher Francis Bacon , and playwrights such as Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare Her reign was also marked by conflicts with France and Scotland bound by a common queen, Mary Stuart , then Spain and Ireland. Elizabeth was an undecisive and prudent ruler. She never married, and when Mary Stuart tried and failed to take over the throne of England, Elizabeth kept her imprisoned for 19 years most of the time in Chatsworth House under the guard of the Earl of Shrewsbury , before finally signing her act of execution. The divide between Catholics and Protestant worsened after this incident. Despite being an Anglican Protestant, his marriage with a French Roman Catholic combined with policies at odd with Calvinist ideals and his totalitarian handling of the Parliament eventually culminated in the English Civil War The country was torn between Royalist and Parliamentarian troops, and most of the medieval castles still standing were destroyed during that period eg. Kenilworth , Corfe , Bodiam Charles was beheaded, and the puritan leader of the Parliamentarians, Oliver Cromwell , ruled the country as a dictator from to his death. The Restoration The "Merry Monarch", as Charles II was known, was better at handling Parliament than his father, although as ruthless with other matters. Charles II was the patron of the arts and sciences. Charles acquired Bombay and Tangiers through his Portuguese wife, thus laying the foundation for the British Empire. The couple was "invited" by the Protestant aristocracy to conduct an invasion from the Netherlands. James was allowed to escape to France, where he remained the rest of his life under the protection of Louis XIV. His son and grandson later attempted to come back to the throne, but without success. The new ruling couple became known as the "Grand Alliance". The parliament ratified that all kings or queens would have to be Protestant from then on. Anne died heirless in , and a distant German cousin, George of Hanover, was called to rule over the UK. This marked a turning point in British politics, as future monarchs were also to remain more passive figures, letting the reins of the government to the Prime Minister. He was a powerful ruler, and the last British monarch to personally lead his troops into battle. Handel was commissioned to compose his coronation anthem "Zadok the Priest" , which has been sung at every coronation since. The British Empire expanded considerably during his reign and the song "God Save the King" also developed during that period. Some other notable changes include the replacement of the Julian Calendar by the Gregorian Calendar in , and the New Year was officially moved from 25 March to 1 January. However, 13 years later, the American War of Independence started after the British government imposed a series of taxes on the colonies. The 13 American colonies were finally granted their independence in and formed the United States of America. George III suffered from an hereditary disease known as porphyria, and his mental health seriously deteriorated from By he was permanently insane see Regency below. During that time, Britain had to face the ambitions of Napoleon to conquer the whole of Europe. Great industrial cities such as Birmingham , Manchester , Liverpool , Leeds and Sheffield emerged as the new economic centres of the country, their population booming several fold. The gap between the rich and the poor increased considerably, as was poignantly described by Charles Dickens in such novels as David Copperfield or Oliver Twist. The Regent was known for his extravagance and liking for women. He was more often diverting himself in his magnificent Oriental-style pavilion in Brighton than worrying about the affairs of state

in London , leaving the power to the Prime Minister, Lord Liverpool , during most of his reign. George IV notoriously had poor relationships with his father, and especially his wife, Caroline of Brunswick, refusing to recognise her as Queen and seeking to divorce her. In , the Whig party came back to power and Earl Grey , the new Prime Minister after whom the tea is named , reformed the electoral system. On the cultural scene, the early 19th century was highly prolific. In , Albert died prematurely at the age of Victoria was devastated and retired in a semi-permanent state of mourning. She nevertheless started a romantic relationship with her Scottish servant John Brown , and there were even talks of a secret marriage. The latter years of her reign were dominated by two influential Prime Ministers, Benjamin Disraeli and his rival William Ewart Gladstone The former was the favourite of the Queen, and crowned her "Empress of India" in , in return of which Victoria creating him Earl of Beaconsfield. Gladstone was a liberal, and often at odd with both Victoria and Disraeli, but the strong support he enjoyed from within his party kept him in power for a total of 14 years between and He legalised trade unions, advocated both universal education and universal suffrage well, at least for men. The First World War left over 9 million dead including nearly 1 million Britons throughout Europe, and financially ruined most of the countries involved. The monarchies in Germany, Austria, Russia and the Ottoman Empire all fell, and the map of central and eastern Europe was redesigned. The consequences in Britain were disillusionment with the government and monarchy, and the creation of the Labour Party. The General Strike of and the worsening economy led to radical political changes, and women were granted the same universal suffrage as men from age 21 instead of previously 30 in His brother then unexpectedly became George VI after the scandal. Nazi Germany was becoming more menacing as Hitler grew more powerful and aggressive. The charismatic Winston Churchill became the war-time Prime Minister in and his speeches encouraged the British to fight off the attempted German invasion. In one of his most patriotic speeches before the Battle of Britain , Churchill address the British people with "We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender. Most of these ex-colonies formed the British Commonwealth, now known as the Commonwealth of Nations. In , Elizabeth II b. Although she somewhat rehabilitated the image of the monarchy, her children did not, and their sentimental lives have made the headlines of the tabloid newspapers at least since the marriage of Charles, Prince of Wales, with Lady Diana Spencer see Althorp in The Hippie subculture also developed at that time. Conservative PM Margaret Thatcher b. She privatised the railways and shut down inefficient factories, but also increased the gap between the rich and the poor by cutting on the social security. Thatcher was succeeded in her party by the unpopular John Major, but in , the "New Labour" more to the right than the "Old Labour" came back to power with Tony Blair b. Bush especially regarding the invasion of Iraq in disappointed many Leftists, who really saw in Blair but a Rightist in disguise. But Blair has also positively surprised many by his intelligence and remarkable skills as an orator and negotiator. Nowadays, the English economy relies heavily on services. The main industries are travel discount airlines and travel agencies , education apart from Oxford and Cambridge universities and textbooks, hundreds of language schools for learners of English , music EMI, HMV, Virgin

Chapter 3 : BBC - History - Ancient History in depth: The Anglo-Saxons

The United Kingdom, also known as Britain or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is a European region with a long and storied history.

The poor were not considered important. Much more was written about the rich and powerful. However in the Middle Ages poverty was common. England was basically a subsistence economy where each village made most of the things it needed and most of the population were subsistence farmers. They grew as much food as their families needed if they were lucky. Surprisingly, perhaps, examining Medieval skeletons shows that most people had an adequate diet, except in times of famine. However life must have been very hard for the disabled. There were many disabled beggars in Medieval towns. The Church tried to help the poor. The Church taught that it was a Christian duty to give to the poor. In monasteries a monk called an almoner gave alms to the poor. However in the Middle Ages fearful poverty was an inescapable part of life. The Church also ran the only hospitals in the Middle Ages. Things did improve after the Black Death of In England about one third of the population died. Afterwards there was a shortage of workers so wages rose. In the 15th century wage labourers were better off than in the 13th century. Poverty in England in the 16th Century With the rise in population during the 16th century jobs were not always easy to find. In Tudor times there were thousands of people without jobs wandering around looking for work. There were also disabled beggars. There were also people who pretended to be mad or disabled in order to beg. Tudor governments tolerated people who were disabled begging. However they did not tolerate able-bodied people without jobs wandering around. Since the 14th century there had been laws against vagabonds but in a new law was passed. The old and disabled poor were to be given licences to beg. However anyone roaming without a job was tied to a cart in the nearest market town and whipped till they were bloody. They were then forced to return to the parish where they had been born or where they had lived for the last 3 years. A law of said vagabonds could be made slaves for 2 years. If he ran away during that time he was branded and made a slave for life. This terrible law was abolished in Poverty in England in the 17th Century At the end of the 17th century a writer estimated that half the population could afford to eat meat every day. They were very poor. At least part of the time they had to rely on poor relief. By an act of overseers of the poor were appointed by each parish. They had power to force people to pay a local tax to help the poor. Those who could not work such as the old and the disabled would be provided for. The overseers were meant to provide work for the able-bodied poor. Anyone who refused to work was whipped and, after , they could be placed in a house of correction. On a more cheerful note in the 17th century in many towns wealthy people left money in their wills to provide almshouses where the poor could live. Poverty in England in the 18th Century In the 18th century probably half the population lived at subsistence or bare survival level. In the early 18th century England suffered from gin drinking. It was cheap and it was sold everywhere as you did not need a license to sell it. Many people ruined their health by drinking gin. Yet for many poor people drinking gin was their only comfort. The situation improved after when a tax was imposed on gin. In the 18th century craftsmen and laborers lived in 2 or 3 rooms. The poorest people lived in just one room. Their furniture was very simple and plain. However despite the improvements in farming methods during the 18th century food for ordinary people remained plain and monotonous. For them meat was a luxury. They lived mainly on bread, butter, potatoes and tea. During the 18th century the Poor Law continued to operate. However a law of allowed parishes to build workhouses to house the destitute. Still conditions in 18th century workhouses were generally less harsh than in 19th century ones. Poverty in Britain in the 19th Century We know more about poverty in the 19th century than in previous ages because, for the first time, people did accurate surveys and they made detailed descriptions of the lives of the poor. We also have photographs and they tell a harrowing story. If you had no income at all you had to enter the workhouse. The workhouses were feared and hated by the poor. They were meant to be as unpleasant as possible to deter poor people from asking the state for help. Married couples were separated and children over 7 were separated from their parents. The inmates were made to do hard work like breaking stones to make roads or breaking bones to make fertilizer. However during the 19th century workhouses gradually became more humane. They

had just enough money for food, rent, fuel and clothes. The surveys found that the main cause of poverty was low wages. The main cause of extreme poverty was the loss of the main breadwinner. If dad was dead, ill or unemployed it was a disaster. Mum might get a job but women were paid much lower wages than men. Surveys also found that poverty tended to go in a cycle. Workers might live in poverty when they were children but things usually improved when they left work and found a job. However when they married and had children things would take a turn for the worse. Their wages might be enough to support a single man comfortably but not enough to support a wife and children too. However when the children grew old enough to work things would improve again. Finally, when he was old a worker might find it hard to find work, except the most low paid kind and be driven into poverty again.

Poverty in Britain in the 20th Century

In some women made their underwear from bags that grocers kept rice or flour in. Poor children often did not wear underwear. Some poor families made prams from orange boxes. A Liberal government was elected in and they made some reforms. From that year poor children were given free school meals. In January the first old age pensions were paid. They were hardly generous - only 5 shillings a week, which was a paltry sum even in those days and they were only paid to people over 70. Nevertheless it was a start. Also in the government formed wages councils. The wages councils set minimum pay levels for certain industries. In the first labor exchanges where jobs were advertised were set up. Then in the government passed an act establishing sickness benefits for workers. The act also provided unemployment benefit for workers in certain trades such as shipbuilding, where periods of unemployment were common. In unemployment benefit was extended to most workers although it was not extended to agricultural workers until 1920. Things greatly improved after the First World War. That figure may not apply to the whole of Britain as Liverpool was a poor city. Poverty had by no means disappeared by the 1920s but it was much less than ever before. Pensions and unemployment benefit were made more generous in 1925 and in 1926. Furthermore prices continued to fall during the 1920s. By 1930 absolute poverty had almost disappeared from Britain. Absolute poverty can be defined as not having enough money to eat an adequate diet or afford enough clothes. However there is also such a thing as relative poverty, when you cannot afford the things most people have. Relative poverty in the late 20th century and it increased in the 1980s. That was partly due to mass unemployment and partly due to a huge rise in the number of single parent families, who often lived on benefits. During the 1980s the gap between rich and poor increased as the well off benefited from tax cuts. In recent years there has been a sharp increase in the number of people using food banks.

Chapter 4 : A Brief History of Britain by William Gibson

A SHORT HISTORY OF ENGLAND. By Tim Lambert. Prehistoric and Ancient England. About 4, BC farming was introduced into what is now England. Using stone axes the farmers began clearing the forests that covered England.

Using stone axes the farmers began clearing the forests that covered England. They grew crops of wheat and barley and they raised herds of cattle, pigs and sheep. However as well as farming they also hunted animals such as deer, horse, and wild boar and smaller animals such as beavers, badgers and hares. They also gathered fruit and nuts. At the same time the early farmers mined flint for making tools. They dug shafts, some of them 15 meters 50 feet deep. They used deer antlers as picks and oxen shoulder blades as shovels. They also made pottery vessels but they still wore clothes made from skins. They erected simple wooden huts to live in. Moreover the early farmers made elaborate tombs for their dead. They dug burial chambers then lined them with wood or stone. Over them they created mounds of earth called barrows. They also made mounds of stones called cairns. From about 2, BC in what is now England the Neolithic new stone age farmers made circular monuments called henges. At first they were simple ditches with stones or wooden poles erected in them. The most famous henge is, of course, Stonehenge. It began as a simple ditch with an internal bank of earth. Outside the entrance stood the Heel Stone. The famous circles of stones were erected hundreds of years later. Stonehenge was altered and added to over a thousand year period from BC to BC before it was finished. Metal artifacts appeared in England as early as 2, BC although it is believed they were imported. By about 2, BC bronze was being made in England. The Bronze Age people also rode horses and they were the first people in England to weave cloth. Bronze age women held their hair with bone pins and they wore crescent shaped necklaces. This may have been because the population was rising and fertile land was becoming harder to obtain. Meanwhile the Bronze Age people continued to build barrows. The dead were buried with useful artifacts. Presumably the living believed the dead would need these in the afterlife. Bronze Age people lived in round wooden huts with thatched roofs but nothing is known about their society or how it was organised. However there were almost certainly different classes by that time. Tin and copper were exported from Britain along with animal hides. Jet and amber were imported for the rich. Celtic England Then about BC iron was introduced into England by a people called the Celts and the first swords were made. Warfare was common during the Iron Age and many hill forts fortified settlements were built at that time. Although there were also many open villages and farms. The Celts fought from horses or light wooden chariots. They threw spears and fought with swords. The Celts had wooden shields and some wore chainmail. Most of the Celts were farmers although there were also many skilled craftsmen. Some Celts were blacksmiths working with iron, bronze smiths, carpenters, leather workers and potters. Celtic craftsmen also made elaborate jewelry of gold and precious stones. Furthermore objects like swords and shields were often finely decorated. The Celts decorated metal goods with enamel. The Celts also knew how to make glass and they made glass beads. The Celts grew crops in rectangular fields. They raised pigs, sheep and cattle. They stored grain in pits lined with stone or wicker and sealed with clay. The Celts also brewed beer from barley. Caesar returned in 54 BC. Both times he defeated the Celts but he did not stay. Both times the Romans withdrew after the Celts agreed to pay annual tribute. The Roman invasion force consisted of about 20,000 legionaries and about 20,000 auxiliary soldiers from the provinces of the Roman Empire. Aulus Plautius led them. The Romans landed somewhere in Southeast England the exact location is unknown and quickly prevailed against the Celtic army. The Celts could not match the discipline and training of the Roman army. A battle was fought on the River Medway, ending in Celtic defeat and withdrawal. The Romans chased them over the River Thames into Essex and within months of landing in England the Romans had captured the Celtic hill fort on the site of Colchester. Meanwhile other Roman forces marched into Sussex, where the local tribe, the Atrebates were friendly and offered no resistance. The Roman army then marched into the territory of another tribe, the Durotriges, in Dorset and southern Somerset. Everywhere the Romans prevailed and that year 11 Celtic kings surrendered to Claudius. Normally if a Celtic king surrendered the Romans allowed him to remain as a puppet ruler. However the war was not over. Fighting between the Welsh tribes and the Romans continued for years. Meanwhile the Iceni

tribe of East Anglia rebelled. At first the Romans allowed them to keep their kings and have some autonomy. However the Romans easily crushed it. In the ensuing years the Romans alienated the Iceni by imposing heavy taxes. Then, when the king of the Iceni died he left his kingdom partly to his wife, Boudicca and partly to Emperor Nero. Soon, however Nero wanted the kingdom all for himself. His men treated the Iceni very badly and they provoked rebellion. This time a large part of the Roman army was fighting in Wales and the rebellion was, at first, successful. However the Romans rushed forces to deal with the rebellion. Although the Romans were outnumbered their superior discipline and tactics secured total victory. After the rebellion was crushed the Celts of what is now southern and eastern England settled down and gradually accepted Roman rule. Then in AD the Romans conquered the north of what is now England. In the latter half of the 3rd century Saxons from Germany began raiding the east coast of Roman Britain. The Romans built a chain of forts along the coast, which they called the Saxon shore. The forts were commanded by an official called the Count of the Saxon shore and they contained both infantry and cavalry. Then in an admiral named Carausius seized power in Britain. For 7 years he ruled Britain as an emperor until Allectus, his finance minister, assassinated him. Britain was then taken back into the Roman fold. In the 4th century the Roman Empire in the west went into serious economic and political decline. The populations of towns fell. Public baths and amphitheaters went out of use. However the Romans sent a man named Theodosius with reinforcements to restore order. Yet the last Roman troops left Britain in In the leaders of the Romano-Celts sent a letter to the Roman Emperor Honorius, appealing for help. However he had no troops to spare and he told the Britons they must defend themselves. Roman Britain split into separate kingdoms but the Romano-Celts continued to fight the Saxon raiders. Roman civilization slowly broke down. People stopped using coins and returned to barter. Roman towns continued to be inhabited until the mid-5th century. Then town life came to an end. Roman civilization in the countryside also faded away. At that time and possibly earlier they were hiring Germanic peoples as mercenaries. According to tradition the Superbus tyrannus brought Jutes to protect his realm from Scots from northern Ireland and Picts from Scotland. He was also afraid the Romans might invade Britain and make it part of the Empire again. The Superbus tyrannus installed the Jutish leader, Hengist, as king of Kent. In return the Jutes were supposed to protect Britain.

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A Brief History of Great Britain narrates the history of Great Britain from the earliest times to the 21st century, covering the entire island England, Wales, and Scotland as well as associated archipelagos such as the Channel Islands, the Orkneys, and Ireland as they have influenced British history.

The presentation of the Declaration of Independence. After the French and Indian War, the colonists began to think that they were not getting their "rights as freeborn Englishman". This was mainly caused by new taxes the British made the colonies pay to pay for the war. In , colonists in Boston known as the Sons of Liberty got in a fight with British soldiers. This became known as the Boston Massacre. This was known as the Boston Tea Party It argued that the colonies should be free of English rule. This said that they were free and independent states , and were not part of England any more. The Revolutionary War started in at Lexington and Concord. In , an American victory at Yorktown helped by the French led Britain to decide to stop fighting and give up the colonies. It gave almost all the power to the states and very little to the central government. Many of the people who helped write the Constitution, such as Washington, James Madison , Alexander Hamilton and Gouverneur Morris , were among the major thinkers in America at the time. The constitution created a stronger national government that had three branches: In other states, many people did not like the Constitution because it gave more power to the central government and had no bill of rights. However, this was not true at first, when only white males who owned property could vote. He defined how a person should act as President and retired after two terms. This was the first American election that was between two political parties. One of the most important things he did as President was to make the Louisiana Purchase from France , which made the United States twice as big. This was called the War of By , over three million African-Americans were slaves in the South. Most worked picking cotton on large plantations. Most white people in the South owned no slaves at all. All of these rebellions failed. The South wanted stronger state governments, but the North wanted a stronger central government. Due to the American System, bigger cities and more factories were built. By , thousands of miles of railroads and telegraph lines had been built in the United States, mostly in the Northeast and Midwest. Many factories were built in Northern cities such as Lowell, Massachusetts. Many factory workers were women, and some were children or people from Ireland or Germany. Thousands of people gathered at large religious meetings called revivals. The other was abolitionism , which tried to end slavery. People such as Harriet Beecher Stowe and William Lloyd Garrison wrote books and newspapers saying that slavery should stop. By , slavery was very rare in the North, but continued in the South. This meant that most married women were expected to stay in the home and raise children. Women who were not married had only a few jobs open to them, such as working in clothing factories and serving as maids. In , many of these women met and agreed to fight for more rights for women, including voting. He was the first president elected from the Democratic Party. He changed the government in many ways. Since many of his supporters were poor people who had not voted before, he rewarded them with government jobs, which is called "spoils" or "patronage". He saw it as a symbol of Whigs and of powerful American businessmen. They called it the "Tariff of Abominations". Calhoun , was from the South. He wrote that the South should stop the tariff and perhaps leave the Union secession. These words would be used again during the Civil War. The first people who moved west were people who caught and sold animal skins such as John Colter and Jim Bridger. During this period, Native Americans lost much of their land. They had lost military battles to the Americans at Tippecanoe and in the Seminole War. In , Texas , which was a nation after it left Mexico , joined the United States. During the war, the U. Many people in the North did not like this war, because they thought it was just good for Southern slave states.

A Brief History of Britain has 60 ratings and 2 reviews. Robert said: This is an extremely readable, enjoyable exploration of British history r.

Scholars debate whether the Victorian periodâ€”as defined by a variety of sensibilities and political concerns that have come to be associated with the Victoriansâ€”actually begins with the passage of the Reform Act. The era was preceded by the Regency era and succeeded by the Edwardian period. Victoria became queen in 1837 at age 18. Her long reign saw Britain reach the zenith of its economic and political power, with the introduction of steam ships, railroads, photography, and the telegraph. Britain again remained mostly inactive in Continental politics. Using the imperial tools of free trade and financial investment, [15] it exerted major influence on many countries outside Europe, especially in Latin America and Asia. Thus Britain had both a formal Empire based on British rule as well as an informal one based on the British pound. It was well understood that a collapse of that country would set off a scramble for its territory and possibly plunge Britain into war. To head that off Britain sought to keep the Russians from occupying Constantinople and taking over the Bosphorous Straits, as well as from threatening India via Afghanistan. Despite mediocre generalship, they managed to capture the Russian port of Sevastopol, compelling Tsar Nicholas I to ask for peace. Prince Albert was effective in defusing a war scare in late 1854. The British people, however, who depended heavily on American food imports, generally favoured the Union. Since support of the Confederacy now meant supporting the institution of slavery, there was no possibility of European intervention. Several of the colonies temporarily refused to join the Dominion despite pressure from both Canada and Britain; the last one, Newfoundland, held out until 1909. Having possessions on six continents, Britain had to defend all of its empire and did so with a volunteer army, the only great power in Europe to have no conscription. Some questioned whether the country was overstretched. Germany acquired a number of colonies in Africa and the Pacific, but Chancellor Otto von Bismarck succeeded in achieving general peace through his balance of power strategy. The British imperial vision called for control over these new countries, and the Dutch-speaking "Boers" or "Afrikaners" fought back in the War in 1899. Outgunned by a mighty empire, the Boers waged a guerrilla war which certain other British territories would later employ to attain independence. This gave the British regulars a difficult fight, but their weight of numbers, superior equipment, and often brutal tactics, eventually brought about a British victory. The war had been costly in human rights and was widely criticised by Liberals in Britain and worldwide. However, the United States gave its support. The Boer republics were merged into the Union of South Africa in 1910; this had internal self-government, but its foreign policy was controlled by London and it was an integral part of the British Empire. When potato blight hit the island in 1845, much of the rural population was left without food, because cash crops were being exported to pay rents. While funds were raised by private individuals and charities, lack of adequate action let the problem become a catastrophe. Cottiers or farm labourers were largely wiped out during what is known in Ireland as the "Great Hunger". A significant minority elected Unionists, who championed the Union. A Church of Ireland former Tory barrister turned nationalist campaigner, Isaac Butt, established a new moderate nationalist movement, the Home Rule League, in the 1840s. The issue was a source of contention throughout Ireland, as a significant majority of Unionists largely but not exclusively based in Ulster, opposed Home Rule, fearing that a Catholic Nationalist "Rome Rule" Parliament in Dublin would discriminate or retaliate against them, impose Roman Catholic doctrine, and impose tariffs on industry. While most of Ireland was primarily agricultural, six of the counties in Ulster were the location of heavy industry and would be affected by any tariff barriers imposed. Queen Victoria, who had reigned since 1837, died in 1901 and was succeeded by her son, Edward VII, who, in turn, was succeeded by George V in 1901. Home Rule in Ireland, which had been a major political issue since the late 19th century but put on hold by the war, was somewhat resolved after the Irish War of Independence brought the British Government to a stalemate in 1921. Negotiations led to the formation of the Irish Free State. However, in order to appease Unionists in the north, the north-eastern six counties remained as part of the U.K. In December 1901, he decided to abdicate in order to be able to marry Simpson, and his brother George VI was crowned king. For the first time, civilians

were not exempt from the war, as London suffered nightly bombings during the Blitz. Attlee created a Welfare State in Britain, which most notably provided free healthcare under the National Health Service. By the late s, the Cold War was underway, which would dominate British foreign policy for another 40 years. In , Churchill and the Tories returned to power; they would govern uninterrupted for the next 13 years. Labour returned to power in under Harold Wilson , who brought in a number of social reforms, including the legalisation of abortion, the abolition of capital punishment and the decriminalisation of homosexuality. Tensions between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland came to a head in the late s, when nationalist participants in a civil rights march were shot by members of the B Specials , a reserve police force manned almost exclusively by unionists. In , Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris, leading to a mass outpouring of grief across the United Kingdom, and indeed the world. On the international stage, the second half of the 20th century was dominated by the Cold War between the Soviet Union and its socialist allies and the United States and its capitalist allies; the U. During this period, the U. In contrast, the Republic of Ireland remained neutral and provided troops to U. Blair won re-election in and , before handing over power to his chancellor Gordon Brown in . After a decade of prosperity both the U. In polling suggested a hung parliament was the most likely outcome in the General Election; however the Conservatives secured a slim majority. After the September 11 Attacks , the U. London was attacked in July . In a referendum in , the U.

Chapter 7 : History of the United States - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is the third book in the four volume Brief History of Britain which brings together some of the leading historians to tell our nation's story from the Norman Conquest of to the present-day.

The first modern humans *Homo sapiens* arrived in the region during the Ice Age about 35,000 to 10,000 years ago, when the sea levels were lower and Britain was connected to the European mainland. It is these people who built the ancient megalithic monuments of Stonehenge and Avebury. Between 1,000 and 400 BCE, Celtic tribes migrated from Central Europe and France to Britain and mixed with the indigenous inhabitants, creating a new culture slightly distinct from the Continental Celtic one. This came to be known as the Bronze Age. The Romans controlled most of present-day England and Wales, and founded a large number of cities that still exist today. In the 5th century, the Romans progressively abandoned Britannia, as their Empire was falling apart and legions were needed to protect Rome. With the Romans vacated, the Celtic tribes started warring with each other again, and one of the local chieftains had the not so smart idea to request help from some of the Germanic tribes from the North of present-day Germany and South of Denmark. These were the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, who arrived in the 5th and 6th centuries. When the fighting ceased, the Germanic tribes did not, as expected by the Celts, return to their homeland. In fact, they felt strong enough to seize the whole of the country for themselves, which they ultimately did, pushing back all the Celtic tribes to Wales and Cornwall, and founding their respective kingdoms of Kent the Jutes, Essex, Sussex and Wessex the Saxons, and further northeast, the kingdoms of Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria the Angles. These 7 kingdoms, which ruled over the United Kingdom from about 450 AD, were later known as the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy. History of the United Kingdom: The Vikings In the latter half of the 9th century, the Norse people from Scandinavia began to invade Europe, with the Swedes putting down roots in Eastern Europe and the Danes creating problems throughout Western Europe, as far as North Africa. Towards the dawn of the 10th century, the Danes invaded the Northeast of England, from Northumberland to East Anglia, and founded a new kingdom known as the Danelaw. Another group of Danes managed to take Paris, and obtain a grant of land from the King of France. The Normans Depiction of Cnut the Great After settling in to their newly acquired land, the Normans adopted the French feudal system and French as the official language. During that same period, the Kings of Wessex had resisted, and eventually vanquished the Danes in England in the 10th century. However, the powerful Canute the Great, king of the newly unified Denmark and Norway and overlord of Schleswig and Pomerania, led two other invasions on England in 1016 and 1017, and became king of England in 1017, after crushing the Anglo-Saxon King, Edmund II. William refused to acknowledge Harold as King and invaded England with 12,000 soldiers in 1066. The Norman rulers kept their possessions in France, and even extended them to most of Western France Brittany, Aquitaine English nevertheless remained the language of the populace, and the fusion of English a mixture of Anglo-Saxon and Norse languages with French and Latin used by the clergy slowly evolved into the modern English we know today. The oldest son, Richard, eventually succeeded to the throne, but because he was rarely in England, and instead off defending his French possessions or fighting the infidels in the Holy Land, his brother John Lackland usurped the throne and started another civil war. With the help of these men, the Scots were able to resist, as immortalized in the Hollywood movie Braveheart. Henry V famously defeated the French at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, but his pious and peace-loving son Henry VI, who inherited the throne at age one, was to have a much more troubled reign. He changed the face of England, passing the Acts of Union with Wales, and became the first ruler to declare himself king of both Wales and Ireland. As a result, Henry proclaimed himself head of the Church of England. He dissolved all the monasteries in the country and nationalized them, becoming immensely rich in the process. Henry VIII was the last English king to claim the title of King of France, as he lost his last possession there, the port of Calais although he tried to recover it, taking Tournai for a few years, the only town in present-day Belgium to have been under English rule. It was also under Henry VIII that England started exploring the globe and trading outside Europe, although this would only develop to colonial proportions under his daughters, Mary I and especially Elizabeth I. Mary I, a staunch Catholic, intended to restore Roman Catholicism to England,

executing over religious dissenters in her 5-year reign which earned her the nickname of Bloody Mary. She married the powerful King Philip II of Spain, who also ruled over the Netherlands, the Spanish Americas and the Philippines named after him, and was the champion of the Counterreformation. Mary died childless of ovarian cancer in 1558, and her half-sister Elizabeth ascended to the throne. The great Queen Elizabeth I saw the first golden age of England. It was an age of great navigators like Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh, and an age of enlightenment with the philosopher Francis Bacon, and playwrights such as Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare. Her reign was also marked by conflicts with France and Scotland, and later Spain and Ireland. She never married, and when Mary Stuart tried and failed to take over the throne of England, Elizabeth kept her imprisoned for 19 years before finally signing her act of execution. After this incident, the divide between Catholics and Protestant worsened. His policies, however, were unpopular among the populace, and his totalitarian handling of the Parliament eventually culminated in the English Civil War. Charles was beheaded, and the puritan Oliver Cromwell ruled the country as a dictator from 1653 to his death. Charles also acquired Bombay and Tangiers through his Portuguese wife, thus laying the foundation for the British Empire. He was succeeded by his Protestant daughter Mary, who was married to his equally Protestant nephew, William of Orange. The new ruling couple became known as the "Grand Alliance," and parliament ratified a bill stating that all kings or queens would have to be Protestant from that point forward. Anne died heirless in 1702, and a distant German cousin, George of Hanover, was called to rule over the UK. This marked a turning point in British politics, as future monarchs were also to remain more passive figures, lending the reins of the government to the Prime Minister. George II was also German born. He was a powerful ruler, and the last British monarch to personally lead his troops into battle. The British Empire expanded considerably during his reign; a reign that saw notable changes, including the replacement of the Julian Calendar by the Gregorian Calendar in 1752, and moving the date of the New Year from March 25 to January 1. He had one of the most troubled and interesting reigns in British history. Thirteen years later, the American War of Independence broke out and in 13 American colonies were finally granted their independence, forming the United States of America. George III suffered from a hereditary disease known as porphyria, and his mental health seriously deteriorated from 1789. The United Kingdom during this time also had to face the ambitions of Napoleon, who desired to conquer the whole of Europe. The former was the favorite of the Queen, while Gladstone, a liberal, was often at odds with both Victoria and Disraeli. However, the strong party support for Gladstone kept him in power for a total of 14 years between 1868 and 1894. He is credited with legalizing trade unions, and advocating for both universal education and suffrage. The First World War left over 9 million dead including nearly 1 million Britons throughout Europe, and financially ruined most of the countries involved. The monarchies in Germany, Austria, Russia and the Ottoman Empire all fell, and the map of central and Eastern Europe was completely redesigned. The General Strike of 1926 and the worsening economy led to radical political changes, including one in which women were finally granted the same universal suffrage as men in 1928. His brother then unexpectedly became George VI after the scandal. Nazi Germany was becoming more menacing as Hitler grew more powerful and aggressive. The popular and charismatic Winston Churchill became the war-time Prime Minister in 1940 and his speeches encouraged the British to fight off the attempted German invasion. In one of his most patriotic speeches before the Battle of Britain, Churchill addressed the British people with "We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender. Most of these ex-colonies formed the British Commonwealth, now known as the Commonwealth of Nations. In 1952, the current queen of England, Elizabeth II, ascended to the throne at the age of 25. The 1960s saw the dawn of pop and rock music, with bands like the Beatles, Pink Floyd, and the Rolling Stones rising to prominence, and the Hippie subculture developing. Conservative Prime minister Margaret Thatcher. Among other accomplishments, she privatized the railways and shut down inefficient factories, but she also increased the gap between the rich and the poor by scaling back social security. Bush especially regarding the invasion of Iraq in 2003 disappointed many Leftists, who really saw in Blair but a Rightist in disguise. Regardless, Blair has impressed many dissenters with his intelligence and remarkable skills as an orator and negotiator. Today, the English economy relies heavily on services and, like the rest of the world, is in the process of

beginning to rebuild after the global economic recession of 2008. The main industries in the country are travel, education, prestigious automobiles and tourism. StudyCountry is a mini encyclopedia for students interested in traveling to different parts of the world.

Chapter 8 : A Brief History of Great Britain by William E. Burns

A Brief Political History Of The United Kingdom decision to build a wall across the neck of Great Britain in the year or with the signing of the Magna Carta in be understood in.

Chapter 9 : A Brief History of Poverty in Britain

Britain's decisive victory saved the country from a ground invasion and possible occupation by German forces while proving that air power alone could be used to win a major battle.