

Chapter 1 : This England: Spirit of England - England and the Great War

Wars of the Roses () - in England and Wales; Richard III was the last English king to die in combat Wars of the Three Kingdoms () - in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland First Bishops' War ()

It is information I have received from the Belgian Legation in London, and is to the following effect: A time-limit of twelve hours was fixed for the reply. The Belgians have answered that an attack on their neutrality would be a flagrant violation of the rights of nations, and that to accept the German proposal would be to sacrifice the honour of a nation. Conscious of its duty, Belgium is finally resolved to repel aggression by all possible means. I make no further comment upon it. Presented by the German Ambassador to Paris: Le President, the German administrative and military authorities have established a certain number of flagrantly hostile acts committed on German territory by French military aviators. Several of these have openly violated the neutrality of Belgium by flying over the territory of that country; one has attempted to destroy buildings near Wesel; others have been seen in the district of the Eifel; one has thrown bombs on the railway near Carlsruhe and Nuremberg. I am instructed, and I have the honour to inform your Excellency, that in the presence of these acts of aggression the German Empire considers itself in a state of war with France in consequence of the acts of this latter Power. My diplomatic mission having thus come to an end, it only remains for me to request your Excellency to be good enough to furnish me with my passports, and to take the steps you consider suitable to assure my return to Germany, with the staff of the Embassy, as well as, with the Staff of the Bavarian Legation and of the German Consulate General in Paris. Hours later, France made its own declaration of war against Germany, readying its troops to move into the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, which it had forfeited to Germany in the settlement that ended the Franco-Prussian War in Schlieffen Plan - Open in new tab to view full size Also on August 3 , the first wave of German troops assembled on the frontier of neutral Belgium, which in accordance with the Schlieffen Plan would be crossed by German armies on their way to an attack on France. This threat to Belgium, whose neutrality had been guaranteed by a treaty concluded by a number of European powers - including Britain, France and Germany - in , united a divided British government in opposition against Germany. Even though some military leaders, including German Chief of Staff Helmuth von Moltke, and his French counterpart, Joseph Joffre, foresaw a longer conflict, they foolishly did not modify their war strategy to prepare for that eventuality. This will take a very long time. No one living knows how long. Kitchener then returned to Egypt as Sirdar and Consul-General. One of the few to foresee a long war, he organised the largest volunteer army that Britain, and indeed the world, had seen and a significant expansion of materials production to fight Germany on the Western Front The Fourth of August And now, for England, the peace had ended PEACE Now, God be thanked Who has matched us with His hour, And caught our youth, and wakened us from sleeping, With hand made sure, clear eye, and sharpened power, To turn, as swimmers into cleanness leaping, Glad from a world grown old and cold and weary, Leave the sick hearts that honour could not move, And half-men, and their dirty songs and dreary, And all the little emptiness of love! He was also known for his boyish good looks, which led him to be described as "the handsomest young man in England". He sailed with the British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on 28 February , but developed sepsis from an infected mosquito bite. He died on 23 April in a hospital ship moored in a bay off the island of Skyros in the Aegean on his way to the landing at Gallipoli. As the expeditionary force had orders to depart immediately, he was buried at 11 pm in an olive grove on Skyros , Greece. And so we are left with the question: And we may well ask the question, would Belgium or France have declared war on Germany if Germany had invaded England in ? In the years prior to the declaration of war a fear of German militarism replaced a previous admiration for German culture and literature. Also in the England, the German Shepherd breed of dog was renamed to the euphemistic "Alsatian". The Rape of Belgium The invasion of Belgium, with its very real suffering, was nevertheless represented in a highly stylized way that dwelt on perverse sexual acts, lurid mutilations, and graphic accounts of child abuse of dubious veracity. In England, many patriotic publicists propagated these stories on their own. For example popular writer William Le Queux described the German army as "one vast gang of

Jack-the-Rippers", and described in graphic detail events such as a governess hanged naked and mutilated, the bayoneting of a small baby, or the "screams of dying women", raped and "horribly mutilated" by German soldiers, accusing them of cutting off the hands, feet, or breasts of their victims. English propagandists were eager to move as quickly as possible from an explanation of the war that focused on the murder of an Austrian Archduke and his wife by Serbian nationalists to the question of the invasion of neutral Belgium. For example, Labour politician Ramsay MacDonald upon hearing about it, declared that "Never did we arm our people and ask them to give up their lives for a less good cause than this". As the German advance in Belgium progressed, English newspapers started to publish stories on German atrocities. The Angels of Mons The Crucified Soldier The English press, "quality" and tabloid alike, showed less interest in the "inventory of stolen property and requisitioned goods" that constituted the bulk of the official Belgian Reports. Instead, accounts of rape and bizarre mutilations flooded the British press. The intellectual discourse on the "scrap of paper.

Chapter 2 : Life in England during World War II

The date was the 3rd of September, It was a Sunday and unseasonably warm out, in London at least. In homes across the nation preparations were underway for the usual Sunday lunch of roast beef or chicken and those who had a wireless already had it on, its familiar voices prattling in the background.

They could not help Poland much and only sent a small French attack on Germany from the West. Germany then signed an agreement to work together with the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union forced the Baltic countries to allow it to keep Soviet soldiers in their countries. While British soldiers were sent to the Continent, there were no big battles fought between two sides. The British and French sent an army to disrupt the German occupation, but had to leave when Germany invaded France. On 10 May, Germany invaded France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg and quickly defeated them by using blitzkrieg tactics. Soon after that, France was divided into occupation zones. One was directly controlled by Germany and Italy, [38] and the other was unoccupied Vichy France. By June, the Soviet Union moved its soldiers into the Baltic states and took them, [39] followed by Bessarabia in Romania. Although there had been some collaboration between the Soviet Union and Germany earlier, this event made it serious. The German Navy destroyed many British ships transporting goods in the Atlantic. The United States remained neutral but started to help the Allies. By helping to protect British ships in the Atlantic, the United States found itself fighting German ships by October but this was not officially war. Germany soon helped Italy. During the summer, the Axis quickly captured Ukraine and the Baltic regions, which caused huge damage to the Soviets. Britain and the Soviet Union formed a military alliance between them in July. This marked the end of the blitzkrieg stage of the war. It began a counter-attack that pushed the German army to the west. By April, many South East Asian countries: The Japanese navy had many quick victories. But in June, Japan was defeated at Midway. Japan could not take more land after this because a large part of its navy was destroyed during the battle. Allies are advancing[change change source] Japan then began its plan to take over Papua New Guinea again, [67] while the United States planned to attack the Solomon Islands. The fight on Guadalcanal began in September and involved a lot of troops and ships from both sides. It ended with the Japanese defeat in early Stalingrad was in the path of the Axis army, and the Soviets decided to defend the city. By November the Germans had nearly taken Stalingrad, however the Soviets were able to surround the Germans during winter [69] After heavy losses, the German army was forced to surrender the city in February A new Allied offensive, drove the Axis west across Libya a few months later, [72] just after the Anglo-American invasion of French North Africa forced it to join the Allies. After this, the Soviets became the attacking force on the Eastern Front, instead of the Germans. This resulted in the arrest of Mussolini in the same month. The Army of India and other forces expelled them in early In early, the Soviet army drove off the German army from Leningrad, [85] ending the longest and deadliest siege in history. After that, the Soviets began a big counter-attack. By May, the Soviets had retaken Crimea. With the attacks in Italy from September, the Allies succeeded in capturing Rome on 4 June, and made the German forces fall back. The code name for the invasion was Operation Overlord. The invasion was successful, and led to the defeat of the German forces in France. Paris was liberated on August and the Allies continued eastward while the German front collapsed. Operation Market-Garden was the combined aerial invasion of the Netherlands launched on 17 September The purpose of the invasion was to seize a series of bridges that included a bridge in Arnhem, which spanned the Rhine river. Market was the name for the airborne invasion. The ground invasion, named Garden, reached the Rhine river, but could not take the Arnhem bridge. Arriving Soviet troops caused uprisings against the German government in Eastern European countries, but these failed to succeed unless helped by the Soviets. By early, the Soviets attacked many German-occupied countries: Greece, Albania, Yugoslavia and Hungary. Finland switched to the side of the Soviets and Allies. American and Soviet soldiers met east of Elbe river, April On 16 December, the Germans tried one last time to take the Western Front by attacking the Allies in Ardennes, Belgium, in a battle is known as the Battle of the Bulge. This was the last major German attack of the war, and the Germans were not successful in their attack. In Italy, the Allies pushed forward, while the Soviets attacked Berlin. The

allied western forces would eventually meet up with the Soviets at the Elbe river on 25 April. German forces in Italy surrendered on 29 April. The final battle in Europe was ended in Italy on 11 May. And by April, American and Philippine forces had cleared much of the Japanese forces, but the fighting continued in some parts of the Philippines until the end of the war. The Allies wanted Japan to surrender with no terms, but Japan refused. The surrender documents were formally signed on board the USS Missouri on 2 September, ending the war. Germany was divided in half. The Allies began denazification, removing Nazi ideas from history, [source?]. Germany lost a quarter of the land it had in, with the land given to Poland and the Soviet Union. The Soviets also took some parts of Poland [99] [] [] and Finland, [] as well as three Baltic countries. In, Korea was divided into North and South Korea, each claiming to be the legal representative of the Koreans, which led to the Korean War in. Colonies around the world in. However, many countries in Asia and Africa would become free later. After the war, decolonization took place in many European colonies. In most cases, it happened peacefully, except in some countries, such as Indochina and Algeria. In general, it was quite positive. German, [] Italian, [] [] and French economies recovered. Many studies said that more than 60 million people died in the war, mostly civilians. The Soviet Union lost around 27 million people, [] almost half of the recorded number. Mostly, people died because they were sick, hungry to death, bombed, or killed because of their ethnicity. The Nazis killed many groups of people they selected, known as The Holocaust. They exterminated Jews, and killed the Roma, Poles, Russians, homosexuals and other groups. There were reports that the Germans and Japanese tested biological weapons against civilians [] and prisoners of war. Concentration camps and slave work [change change source] Polish civilians that would be sent to Germany for forced labor. Other than the Holocaust, about 12 million people, mostly Eastern Europeans, were forced to work for the German economy. Both treated prisoners of war badly. This was even the case for Soviet soldiers who survived and returned home. Japanese prisoner-of-war camps, many of which were used as labour camps, also caused a lot of deaths. The death rate of Western prisoners was. Some Germans and Italians were included too. The Allies agreed that the Soviet Union could use prisoners of war and civilians for forced labor. However, this was no longer the case after the United States and Soviet Union joined the Allies in. The Allies were able to have a higher production level compared with the Axis because the Allies had more natural resources. Also, Germany and Japan did not plan for a long war and had no ability to do so. At factories, women were employed to make bombs, guns, aircraft, and other equipment. In Britain, thousands of women were sent to work on farms as part of the Land Army. By some weapons were made almost entirely by women. In the beginning, women were rarely used in the labour forces in Germany and Japan. The mass evacuation of children also had a major impact on the lives of mothers during the war years. Occupation [change change source] Germany had two different ideas of how it would occupy countries. The Nazis used their racial policy and murdered a lot of people they thought non-human. The Resistance, the group of people who fought Germany secretly, could not harm the Nazis much until. By, it was able to produce up to 50 million barrels of oil in the Dutch East Indies. The war brought new methods for future wars. The air forces improved greatly in fields such as air transport, [] strategic bombing to use bombs to destroy industry and morale, [] as well as radar, and weapons for destroying aircraft. Jet aircraft were developed and would be used in worldwide air forces. Aircraft carriers soon replaced battleships. The British improved weapons for destroying submarines, such as sonar, while the Germans improved submarine tactics.

Chapter 3 : English Civil Wars - HISTORY

The Hundred Years' War ()-The Hundred Years' War was actually a series of wars between England and France which lasted years. Most historians break this conflict into four distinct wars. Most historians break this conflict into four distinct wars.

The Kriegsmarine also took part in the campaign, primarily by sending U-Boats into the Mediterranean, but latterly by controlling the few remaining Axis naval forces after the Italian surrender. At the outset of the war, the area was numerically dominated by the British and French navies, and Italy was initially a neutral power astride communications in the centre of the area. The situation changed vastly with the fall of France and the declaration of war by Italy. While the British Mediterranean Fleet based at Alexandria controlled the eastern end of the Mediterranean, there was a need to replace French naval power in the west. To do this Force H was formed at Gibraltar. The British Government was still concerned that the remaining French ships would be used by the Axis powers. Consequently, they took steps to neutralise it. The French squadron there was impounded in the port. In the western basin things did not go so smoothly. Force H steamed there to confront the French with terms. Those terms were all rejected and so the French fleet was attacked and heavily damaged by Force H. The Vichy French government broke off all ties with the British as a result. See destruction of the French Fleet at Mers-el-Kebir. Battle of Taranto[edit] The Italian battle fleet dominated the centre of the Mediterranean and so the Royal Navy hatched a plan to cripple it. On 11 November , the Royal Navy crippled or destroyed three Italian battleships in port by using carrier borne aircraft, the obsolescent Fairey Swordfish , in the Battle of Taranto. As a result, the Italian fleet was withdrawn from Taranto and never again based in such a forward position. The Japanese used lessons from this battle in planning their attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December The British lost one torpedo plane and suffered light damage to some ships. Germany launched its invasion of Yugoslavia on 6 April , winning a quick victory but delaying the much larger planned invasion of Russia Operation Barbarossa. On 2 March , the British launched Operation Lustre , the transportation of troops and equipment to Greece. Twenty-six troopships arrived at the port of Piraeus and more than 62, Commonwealth troops landed in Greece. On 3 April, during a meeting of British, Yugoslav, and Greek military representatives, the Yugoslavs promised to block the Strimon valley in case of a German attack across their territory. During this meeting, Papagos laid stress on the importance of a joint Greco-Yugoslavian offensive against the Italians as soon as the Germans launched their offensive against Yugoslavia and Greece. In the aftermath of the German invasion of Greece, only the island of Crete remained in Allied hands in the Aegean area. The Germans invaded in a combined operation and forced the evacuation of the British forces. Of more than 40, Allied soldiers, fewer than 20, managed to escape. The evacuation was also costly to the Royal Navy. It lost 4 cruisers and 6 destroyers sunk during the evacuation. Admiral Cunningham was determined that the "navy must not let the army down"; when Army generals feared he would lose too many ships Cunningham remarked "It takes three years to build a ship, it takes three centuries to build a tradition". Malta , which lies in the middle of the Mediterranean, proved a standing thorn in the side of the Axis. It lay in a perfect strategic position to intercept Axis supplies destined for North Africa. For a time it looked as if Axis aircraft flying from bases in Italy would starve Malta into submission. The turning point in the siege of Malta came in August , when the British sent a very heavily defended convoy code named Operation Pedestal. Despite the sinking of about half of the ships sent, the convoy managed to deliver enough food and aviation fuel to enable Malta to hold out until the siege was lifted. Following Allied territorial gains in Libya and in the Western Mediterranean , the siege was lifted. For the fortitude and courage of the Maltese during the siege, the island was awarded the George Cross by King George VI in early Large-scale invasions[edit] In late Operation Torch , the first large Allied combined operation, was launched. The British and Americans landed in force invading French North Africa, but far enough west that the Germans were able to invade Tunisia owned by France and make it their base of operations. Again the naval forces escorted the invasion fleet and heavy cover was provided against Italian interference. In the aftermath of Avalanche, the Italian surrender was announced and the British naval forces escorted the Italian fleet to Malta under the terms of the surrender. The

main threat to Allied shipping around Italy during these invasions was not the Italian fleet but German guided weapons which sunk or damaged a number of Allied units. Aegean sweep[edit] The one major exception to mundane missions occurred in late Due to their garrisons on the various islands of the Aegean, the Germans had maintained control over the Aegean Sea long after they had lost other areas of the Mediterranean to Allied control. In late , that changed as an Allied carrier task force moved into the area. Composed entirely of escort carriers , the task force wreaked havoc with German shipping in the area and re-asserted Allied dominance over the last remaining area of the Mediterranean still controlled by the Germans. The invasion of Normandy was the greatest amphibious assault yet. Over 1, fighting ships and some 5, other ships were involved. The sheer number of vessels involved meant that nearly all of the major ports of the United Kingdom were at capacity immediately preceding the assault. The five assault divisions crossed the channel in five great assault groups, there were two task forces, the Anglo-Canadian Eastern Task Force and the American Western Task Force. Coastal Command secured the western flank of the invasion route against interference by German U-Boats from the western French ports. The surface forces assisted by protecting the assault convoys from the small German surface forces in the area. Operation Overlord saw an enormous minesweeping operation, with hundreds of minesweepers clearing and maintaining channels. The bombardment forces were on an enormous scale, with eight battleships taking part in the assault. The formidable defences of the Atlantic Wall were difficult to contend with, and many duels between the heavy ships and shore batteries were fought during the invasion. On the whole the assault went well, although disaster came nearest to occurring for the Americans at Omaha Beach. There the naval forces provided crucial backup for the assaulting forces, with destroyers coming in very close to the beach to blast the German defences. British losses to enemy attack both during the initial assault and the building of the bridgehead were comparatively small. Virtually no ships were sunk by German naval surface forces as this force was largely destroyed prior to the invasion. Two of the ports used by the German light forces were heavily bombed by the Allied air forces. The larger German ships based in France, three destroyers from Bordeaux were defeated in a destroyer action well to the west of the main assault area. Larger problems were caused by U-boats and especially mines , but the U-boats were hunted down and the mines swept effectively enough to make the invasion a success. The East[edit] Indian Ocean disaster[edit] British heavy cruisers Dorsetshire and Cornwall under Japanese air attack and heavily damaged on 5 April Though the Indian Ocean was a backwater during World War II , there were several vital operations in that area. British convoys running through the western Indian Ocean were vital for supplying Allied forces in North Africa. They faced a small but consistent threat from both German and Japanese "surface raiders" and submarines. Tankers sailing from the oil terminals of Iran also had to run the same gauntlet. However, on 10 December those two ships were sunk by Japanese aircraft, with HMS Prince of Wales becoming the first battleship in history to be sunk strictly by airpower while at sea and fighting back. On paper, the fleet looked impressive, boasting five battleships and three aircraft carriers. However, four of the battleships were old and obsolete and one of the aircraft carriers was small and virtually useless in a fleet action as the new fleet commander, Admiral James Somerville , noted. Following successes over American forces in the Pacific , the main Japanese carrier force made its one and only foray into the Indian Ocean in April Nagumo took the main force after the British fleet and a subsidiary raid was made on shipping in the Bay of Bengal. The weight and experience of this Japanese force far outweighed that available to the Royal Navy. Fortunately, or by design, the main British fleet did not make contact with the Japanese and thus remained available for future action. Indian Ocean retreat[edit] Following those attacks, the British fleet retreated to Kilindini in East Africa , as their more forward fleet anchorages could not be adequately protected from Japanese attack. The fleet in the Indian Ocean was then gradually reduced to little more than a convoy escort force as other commitments called for the more powerful ships. One exception was Operation Ironclad , a campaign launched when it was feared that Vichy French Madagascar might fall into Japanese hands, to be used as a submarine base. Such a blow would have been devastating to British lines of communication to the Far East and Middle East , but the Japanese never contemplated it. The French resisted more than expected, and more operations were needed to capture the island, but it did eventually fall. It was only after the war in Europe was coming to an end that large British forces were dispatched to the Indian Ocean again after the

neutralisation of the German fleet in late and early The success of Operation Overlord in June meant even more craft from the Home Fleet could be sent, including precious amphibious assault shipping. During late , as more British aircraft carriers came into the area, a series of strikes were flown against oil targets in Sumatra to prepare British carriers for the upcoming operations in the Pacific. The oil installations were heavily damaged by the attacks, aggravating the Japanese fuel shortages due to the Allied blockade. The final attack was flown as the carriers were heading for Sydney to become the British Pacific Fleet. After the departure of the main battle forces, the Indian Ocean was left with escort carriers and older battleships as the mainstay of its naval forces. Nevertheless, during those months important operations were launched in the recapture of Burma , including landings on Ramree , Akyab and near Rangoon. The earliest successes were gained by mine laying. The Japanese minesweeping capability was never great, and when confronted with new types of mines they did not adapt quickly. Japanese shipping was driven from the Burmese coast using this type of warfare. British submarines also operated against Japanese shipping, although later in the war. A major success was the sinking of several Japanese cruisers. The Italians then began to entrench. At this time there were only 30, British available to defend against , Italian troops. The Italian decision to halt the advance is generally credited to them being unaware of the British strength, and the activity of British naval forces operating in the Mediterranean to interfere with Italian supply lines. Then, on 8 December , Operation Compass began. Planned as an extended raid, a force of British, Indian and Australian troops succeeded in cutting off the Italian troops. The Italian army was virtually destroyed, and it seemed that the Italians would be swept out of Libya. However, at the crucial moment, Winston Churchill ordered that the advance be stopped and troops dispatched to defend Greece. Weeks later the first German troops were arriving in North Africa to reinforce the Italians. A pro-German ruler took power in the coup and ordered British forces out of Iraq. Basra was too well defended for the Iraqis to consider taking.

Chapter 4 : Military history of the United Kingdom during World War II - Wikipedia

England had suffered food rationing through the war years and after the war even though they were victors they could not afford to import food at pre-war levels. Food became even scarcer and was still rationed 7 years after the end of the war.

The so-called Wars of the Roses was the struggle between the Yorkist and Lancastrian descendants of Edward III for control of the throne and of local government. The origins of the conflict have been the subject of much debate. It can be said that Great magnates with private armies dominated the countryside. Lawlessness was rife and taxation burdensome. Henry later proved to be feckless and simpleminded, subject to spells of madness, and dominated by his ambitious queen, Margaret of Anjou, whose party had allowed the English position in France to deteriorate. Henry VI, oil painting by an unknown artist; in the National Portrait Gallery, London Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London Between and Richard, third duke of York, had become the head of a great baronial league, of which the foremost members were his kinsmen, the Nevilles, the Mowbrays, and the Bouchiers. Among his principal lieutenants was his nephew Richard Neville, the earl of Warwick, a powerful man in his own right, who had hundreds of adherents among the gentry scattered over 20 counties. In 1453, when Henry lapsed into insanity, a powerful baronial clique, backed by Warwick, installed York, as protector of the realm. The first battle of the wars, at St. Albans May 22, 1455, resulted in a Yorkist victory and four years of uneasy truce. Margaret of Anjou Margaret of Anjou. York fled to Ireland, and the Lancastrians, in a packed parliament at Coventry November 1459, obtained a judicial condemnation of their opponents and executed those on whom they could lay hands. From then on the struggle was bitter. Both parties laid aside their scruples and struck down their opponents without mercy. In France Warwick regrouped the Yorkist forces and returned to England in June 1459, decisively defeating the Lancastrian forces at Northampton July 1459. York tried to claim the throne but settled for the right to succeed upon the death of Henry. Gathering forces in northern England, the Lancastrians surprised and killed York at Wakefield in December 1460 and then marched south toward London, defeating Warwick on the way at the Second Battle of St. Albans February 17, 1461. There, in the bloodiest battle of the war, the Yorkists won a complete victory. Henry, Margaret, and their son fled to Scotland. The first phase of the fighting was over, except for the reduction of a few pockets of Lancastrian resistance. Warwick, the statesman of the group, was the true architect of the Yorkist triumph. Until he was the real ruler of the kingdom. He ruthlessly put down the survivors of the Lancastrians who, under the influence of Margaret and with French help, kept the war going in the north and in Wales. The wholesale executions that followed the battle of Hexham May 1464 practically destroyed what was left of the Lancastrian party, and the work seemed complete when, a year later, Henry VI was captured and put in the Tower of London. Warwick made an equally vigorous effort to put the government of the realm in better shape, to restore public order, to improve the administration of justice, and, by confiscations and economies, to make the crown solvent. At the same time, both Warwick and his master were caught in the diplomatic schemes of the astute Louis XI, who had succeeded Charles VII as the king of France in 1461. He was still preoccupied with the power of Burgundy, and the English were to be the pawns in the game he intended to play for the humbling of Charles the Bold. The Woodvilles, a family with strong Lancastrian connections, never achieved real political influence, but they climbed into positions of trust near the king, thus estranging Warwick still further. The open breach between the king and the earl came in 1469. Warwick then began to organize opposition to the king. He was behind the armed protest of the gentry and commons of Yorkshire that was called the rising of Robin of Redesdale April 1469. Edward fled to the Netherlands with his followers. There was thus little real opposition to Edward, who, having secured Burgundian aid, returned from Flushing to land at Ravenspur March in a manner reminiscent of Henry IV. His forces met those of Warwick on April 14 in the Battle of Barnet, in which Edward outmaneuvered Warwick, regained the loyalty of the duke of Clarence, and decisively defeated Warwick, who was slain in the battle. On the same day, Margaret and her son, who had hitherto refused to return from France, landed at Weymouth. Hearing the news of Barnet, she marched west, trying to reach the safety of Wales, but Edward won the race to the Severn. In the Battle of Tewkesbury May 4

Margaret was captured, her forces destroyed, and her son killed. With the help of the French and of Yorkist defectors, Henry defeated and killed Richard at Bosworth Field on August 22, , bringing the wars to a close. Henry defeated a Yorkist rising supporting the pretender Lambert Simnel on June 16, , a date which some historians prefer over the traditional for the termination of the wars.

ENGLAND and the GREAT WAR For a number of years after the First World War was called 'The Great War' in English, and 'Der Große Krieg' in German - simply because it was the great war. There had been no other war like it, and no one contemplated another war so devastating or so terrible.

As the United States concludes a decade of war in Southeast Asia, it is worth recalling the time, two centuries ago, when Britain faced the same agonizing problems in America that we have met in Vietnam. History seldom repeats itself exactly, and it would be a mistake to try to equate the ideologies or the motivating factors involved; but enough disturbing parallels may be drawn between those two distant events to make one wonder if the Messrs. Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon had their ears closed while the class was studying the American Revolution. Britain, on the eve of that war, was the greatest empire since Rome. Never before had she known such wealth and power; never had the future seemed so bright, the prospects so glowing. All, that is, except the spreading sore of discontent in the American colonies that, after festering for a decade and more, finally erupted in violence at Lexington and Concord on April 19. When news of the subsequent battle for Bunker Hill reached England that summer, George III and his ministers concluded that there was no alternative to using force to put down the insurrection. He was determined to teach the rebellious colonials a lesson, and no doubts troubled him as to the righteousness of the course he had chosen. They are raw, undisciplined, cowardly men. I wish instead of forty or fifty thousand of these brave fellows they would produce in the field at least two hundred thousand; the more the better, the easier would be the conquest; if they did not run away, they would starve themselves into compliance with our measures. First, he would remove the British troops from Boston, since that place was poorly situated for defense. Then, while the people of the Massachusetts Bay Colony were treated like the madmen they were and shut up by the navy, the army would move to one of the southern colonies, fortify itself in an impregnable position, and let the provincials attack if they pleased. General James Robertson also believed that success lay in this scheme of Americanizing the combat force: On several occasions in they were able to read the public pulse that part of it, at least, that mattered by observing certain important votes in Parliament. Each vote indicated the full tide of anger that influenced the independent members, the country gentlemen who agreed that the colonials must be put in their place and taught a lesson. A bit out of touch with the news, highly principled, and content in the belief that the King and the ministry must be right, none of them seem to have asked what would be best for the empire; they simply went along with the vindictive measures that were being set in motion. No one in any position of power in the government proposed, after the Battle of Bunker Hill, to halt the fighting in order to settle the differences; no one seriously contemplated conversations that might have led to peace. Instead the government "like so many governments before and since" took what appeared to be the easy way out and settled for war. George III was determined to maintain his empire, intact and undiminished, and his greatest fear was that the loss of the American colonies would set off a reaction like a line of dominoes falling. It contains such a train of consequences that they must be examined to feel its real weight. Should America succeed in that, the West Indies must follow, not in independence, but for their own interest they must become dependent on America. Ireland would soon follow, and this island reduced to itself, would be a poor island indeed. Surpassing all others in sheer magnitude was the immense distance between the mother country and the rebellious colonies. No contrivance can prevent the effect of this distance in weakening government. Seas roll, and months pass, between the order and the execution; and the want of a speedy explanation of a single point is enough to defeat a whole system. It was not only immensely costly and time consuming, but there was a terrifying wastefulness to it. Ships sank or were blown hundreds of miles off course, supplies spoiled, animals died en route. Worse yet, men died, and in substantial numbers: Beyond the water lay the North American land mass, and it was an article of faith on the part of many a British military man that certain ruin lay in fighting an enemy on any large scale in that savage wilderness. In the House of Lords in November, , the Duke of Richmond warned the peers to consult their geographies before turning their backs on a peaceful settlement. John Wilkes, taunting Lord North on this matter of military conquest, suggested that North "even if he rode out at the head of the

entire English cavalry would not venture ten miles into the countryside for fear of guerrilla fighters. Now Earl of Chatham, he was so crippled in mind and body that he rarely appeared in the House of Lords, but in May, 1775, he made the supreme effort, determined to raise his voice once again in behalf of conciliation. Supported on canes, his eyes flashing with the old fire and his beaklike face thrust forward belligerently, he warned the peers: You talk of your numerous friends to annihilate the Congress, and of your powerful forces to disperse their army, but I might as well talk of driving them before me with this crutch. I will venture to tell your lordships that the American gentry will make officers enough fit to command the troops of all the European powers. What you have sent there are too many to make peace, too few to make war. You cannot make them respect you. You cannot make them wear your cloth. I say again, this country has been the aggressor. You have made descents upon their coasts. You have burnt their towns, plundered their country, made war upon the inhabitants, confiscated their property, proscribed and imprisoned their persons. Their affections are estranged from their sovereign. Let, then, reparation come from the hands that inflicted the injuries. Let conciliation succeed chastisement. It began to appear, however, that destruction of the Continental Army even if that goal could be achieved might not be conclusive. After the disastrous campaign around Manhattan in 1776, George Washington had determined not to risk his army in a major engagement, and he began moving away from the European battle style in which two armies confronted each other head to head. His tactical method became that of the small, outweighed prizefighter who depends on his legs to keep him out of range of his opponent and who, when the bigger man begins to tire, darts in quickly to throw a quick punch, then retreats again. It was an approach to fighting described by Nathanael Greene, writing of the campaign in the South in 1781. The battle at Guilford Courthouse, which was won by the British, was typical of the results. The fragmented political and military structure of the colonies was often a help to the rebels, rather than a hindrance, for it meant that there was almost no chance of the enemy striking a single crushing blow. The difficulty, as General Frederick Haldimand, who succeeded Carleton in Canada, saw it, was the seemingly unending availability of colonial militiamen who rose up out of nowhere to fight in support of the nucleus of regular troops called the Continental Army. No British regular could tell if an American was friend or foe, for loyalty to King George was easy to attest; and the man who was a farmer or merchant when a British battalion marched by his home was a militiaman as soon as it had passed by, ready to shoulder his musket when an emergency or an opportunity to confound the enemy arose. Against an unnumberable supply of irregular forces the British could bring to bear only a fixed quantity of troops however many, that is, they happened to have on the western side of the Atlantic Ocean at any given moment. Early in the war General James Murray had foreseen the difficulties that would undoubtedly arise. Writing to Lord Barrington, he warned that military conquest was no real answer. If the war proved to be a long one, their advantage in numbers would heavily favor the rebels, who could replace their losses while the British could not. Not only did every musket and grain of powder have to be shipped across the ocean; but if a man was killed or wounded, the only way to replace him was to send another man in full kit across the Atlantic. And troop transports were slow and small: During the summer of 1776 recruiting went badly in England and Ireland, for the war was not popular with a lot of the people who would have to fight it, and there were jobs to be had. It was evident that the only means of assembling a force large enough to suppress the rebellion in the one massive stroke that had been determined upon was to hire foreign troops. And immediately this word was out, the rapacious petty princes of Brunswick, Hesse-Cassel, and Waldeck, and the Margrave of Anspach-Bayreuth, generously offered up a number of their subjects at a price fully equipped and ready for duty, to serve His Majesty George III. Three wounded men were to count as one killed in action, and it was stipulated that a soldier killed in combat would be paid for at the same rate as levy money. In other words the life of a subject was worth precisely seven pounds, four shillings, fourpence halfpenny to the Duke. As it turned out, the large army that was assembled in to strike a quick, overpowering blow that would put a sudden end to the rebellion proved when that decisive victory never came to pass to be a distinct liability, a hideously expensive and at times vulnerable weapon. In the indecisive hands of men like William Howe and Henry Clinton, who never seemed absolutely certain about what they should do or how they should do it, the great army rarely had an opportunity to realize its potential; yet, it remained a ponderous and insatiable consumer of supplies, food, and

money. Largely ignored by the policy makers early in the war despite their pleas for assistance, the loyalists were numerous enough but were neither well organized nor evenly distributed throughout the colonies. Where the optimists in Britain went wrong in thinking that loyalist strength would be an important factor was to imagine that anything like a majority of Americans could remain loyal to the Crown if they were not continuously supported and sustained by the mother country. Furthermore, it proved almost impossible for the British command to satisfy the loyalists, who were bitterly angry over the persecution and physical violence and robbery they had to endure and who charged constantly that the British generals were too lax in their treatment of rebels. While the problems of fighting the war in distant America mounted, Britain found herself unhappily confronted with the combination of circumstances the Foreign Office dreaded most: When the American war began, the risk of foreign intervention was regarded as minimal, and the decision to fight was made on the premise that victory would be early and complete and that the armed forces would be released before any threatening European power could take advantage of the situation. But as the war continued without any definite signs of American collapse, France and Spain seized the chance to embarrass and perhaps humiliate their old antagonist. At first they supported the rebels surreptitiously with shipments of weapons and other supplies; then, when the situation appeared more auspicious, France in particular furnished active support in the form of an army and a navy, with catastrophic results for Great Britain. One fascinating might-have-been is what would have happened had the Opposition in Parliament been more powerful politically. It consisted, after all, of some of the most forceful and eloquent orators imaginable, men whose words still have the power to send shivers up the spine. Not simply vocal, they were highly intelligent men whose concern went beyond the injustice and inhumanity of war. Given a stronger power base, they might have headed off war or the ultimate disaster; had the government been in the hands of men like Chatham or Burke or their followers, some accommodation with America might conceivably have evolved from the various proposals for reconciliation. Time and again a member of the Opposition would rise to speak out against the war for one reason or another: The law of force is that which they appeal to. It is indecent not to lay before the House some plan, or the outlines of a plan. Although it might be said that the arguments raised by the Opposition did not change the course of the war, they nevertheless affected the manner in which it was conducted, which in turn led to the ultimate British defeat. As a result the war of the American Revolution was a limited war—limited from the standpoint of its objectives and the force with which Britain waged it. In some respects the aspect of the struggle that may have had the greatest influence on the outcome was an intangible one. Until the outbreak of hostilities in no more than a small minority of the colonials had seriously contemplated independence, but after a year of war the situation was radically different. Now the mood was reflected in words such as these—instructions prepared by the county of Buckingham, in Virginia, for its delegates to a General Convention in Williamsburg: Every one of us feels more important than ever; we now congratulate each other as Freemen. Indeed, it was difficult for the average Englishman to comprehend the appeal that personal freedom and independence held for a growing number of Americans. And as they fought on, increasing with each passing year the possibility that independence might be achieved, the people of Britain finally lost the will to keep going. In England the goal had not been high enough, while the cost was too high. There was nothing compelling about the limited objective of bringing the colonies back into the empire, nothing inspiring about punishing the rebels, nothing noble in proving that retribution awaited those who would change the nature of things. After the war had been lost and the treaty of peace signed, Lord North looked back on the whole affair and sadly informed the members of the House of Commons where, in his opinion, the fault lay. With a few minor changes, it was a message as appropriate to America in as to Britain in

It was the war of Parliament. There was not a step taken in it that had not the sanction of Parliament. It was the war of the people, for it was undertaken for the express purpose of maintaining the just rights of Parliament, or, in other words, of the people of Great Britain, over the dependencies of the empire. For this reason, it was popular at its commencement, and eagerly embraced by the people and Parliament.

Chapter 6 : The United Kingdom Involvement in the Vietnam War - The Vietnam War

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In Britain the conflict became one of the most debated topics of the day, leading to a proliferation of pamphlets, newspaper reports and letter-writing campaigns, as well as pro-Confederate balls, anti-slavery petitions and cotton boycotts. The two nations were also often competitors, suspicious of one another, particularly with regard to the British northern provinces and in relation to Central and Southern America. British investment in the United States was considerable, and the cotton mills of northern Britain and Ireland relied on the Southern states for their raw materials. Industrial developments, notably the railways, were also often financed through British banks and companies. As part of the British Empire, the British North American provinces and the Caribbean formed important markets and sources of raw material. Such considerations informed the course of the war. The Confederate states believed that British and other European reliance on their slave-plantation produced cotton would ensure early recognition for their independence, a factor that led to the announcement of the secession from the Union. No power on earth dares to make war upon it. British mill owners, it was believed, could not risk their machines falling quiet. These views often differed according to social class and from region to region. Historians continue to debate the nature and importance of these divisions. It is usually argued that the British ruling and middle classes took the view that Southern society owed much to British aristocratic and gentlemanly manners and outlook, while the North represented industrial competition with Britain, and remained a bastion of Yankee independence, forever revelling in its overthrow of British rule in the s and s. Those giving their support to the Southern states feared Northern industrial competition and saw widespread democracy as a source of political breakdown and civil strife. In contrast, radicals and the lower-middle and working classes firmly supported the democratic, anti-slavery, industrialised North. The Emancipation Proclamation of helped to galvanise support of the Union among many in Britain, confirming the war as a campaign for democracy and against slavery. Many thousands of copies were sold in the Britain, and the anti-slavery novel also inspired a range of songs, poems, plays and paintings. However, these neat distinctions have increasingly been criticised by historians. The notion of northern, working-class support for the North may have been promulgated by Richard Cobden and John Bright as part of their political campaigns, rather than having being something that was widely shared. Regional studies have shown that many areas in the north of England, such as Lancashire, and particularly Liverpool, were strongly pro-Confederate. Detailed studies of the press have also revealed the importance of the issue of slavery to the British debate, notably the damage done to the Confederate case and widespread scepticism of Union anti-slavery feeling. Britain and the World The Civil War took place within a global context, with important strategic implications for the British Empire. Britain had recently fought in the Crimean War “ and was reeling from the Indian Rebellion of “ Key Events As well as economic ties, public opinion and strategic realities, a series of events became key flashpoints in the relationship between America and Britain. The Trent Affair was a diplomatic incident of the first order. The Emancipation Proclamation On 22 September , following Union victory at the Battle of Antietam, President Lincoln drafted an executive order “ referred to as the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation “ which stated that if the Confederate States did not return to the Union by 1 January , slaves residing in the rebelling areas of the country would be free. This applied to the majority of slaves in America. The Union cause became tied to abolition as a result. The move largely ruled out the possibility of Britain recognising Southern independence, given its commitment to slavery. Many beyond American saw the Emancipation Proclamation as part of a wider fight for democracy against the institution of slavery. The President replied directly to the mill workers in January , thanking them for their support in the face the personal hardship that befell them whilst the cotton trade was restricted.

Chapter 7 : List of wars involving England - Wikipedia

Initially northern and western England, together with much of Ireland, stood for the king, while the southeast (including London), the Royal Navy, and Scotland fought for Parliament.

Chapter 8 : War of the Roses - Europa Universalis 4 Wiki

New England opposed the War of primarily as a reaction against the embargo and similar trade restrictions with England and France that Thomas Jefferson and his successor, James Madison, imposed upon American shipping.

Chapter 9 : Wars of the Roses | Summary, History, & Facts | calendrierdelascience.com

Hundred Years' War, an intermittent struggle between England and France in the 14thth century over a series of disputes, including the question of the legitimate succession to the French crown.