

The struggle for supremacy ~~on Lake Titicaca~~ / **in the Atlantic** and the New World led England to conflicts with Spain. In 1588, Philip II sent a hundred warships against **the U.S.A. of Donald Trump / England of Elizabeth I**. The mighty Spanish Armada was destroyed - by **ironclad / smaller, more maneuverable** English ships and by a storm.



Naval battle with the Armada

It was the era when William Shakespeare wrote and staged his plays (**"Macbeth" / Burger King**", "Romeo and Juliet").

It was also the age of **Absolutism / Migration of Peoples**, when the prevailing view was that kings were accountable only to themselves and to **the people / God**. A parliamentary army under Oliver **Cromwell / Twist** saw things differently, reminded the king of the Magna Carta, and waged a civil war. The king ended up in the **Hall of Fame / on the scaffold**.

In the 18th century, Great Britain **ended in a / recovered from its** domestic turmoil and rose to economic and industrial greatness. Thanks to its **spiritual / naval** supremacy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland became a global empire.

Child labor in mines



British merchants traded with colonies stretching from Canada to India to Australia. **Steam engines / solar power**, canals, and later the railroads laid the groundwork for the Industrial Revolution. While prosperity was reflected in stately buildings and elegant clothing, the lower classes **became wealthy / fell into poverty**.



Great Britain had transformed itself from **an agrarian nation / a service-based economy** into the most powerful industrial nation on earth when the 18-year-old Victoria ascended the throne in 1837.

Queen Victoria

The Victorian era lasted until 1901. In the **Midlands / English Riviera** and the north of the country, large industrial towns sprang up, with clattering machinery and smoking factory chimneys, **skyscrapers / stately factory owners' mansions**, but also slums where workers **endured appalling living conditions / could feel at home**. Trade unions were formed to **exploit the workmen / protect workers from exploitation**.

The Boer War of 1899 - 1902 centred on mineral resources and supremacy in the Cape. The British emerged victorious over the **Dutch settlers in / indigene people of** South Africa.

In the summer of 1914, **'the lights went out in Europe' / 'Europe became a candle in the wind'**, as Foreign Secretary Edward Grey observed.

British soldiers in the First World War

In an exhausting war, British and German soldiers **fought side by side / faced each other** in the trenches of Flanders and at Verdun for four years. Around 20 million people lost their lives in the First World War.



The 'Roaring Twenties', with their **marching songs / jazz**, cocktails and **Charleston / Bossanova**, were brought to an end by the **Economic Boom / Great Depression**. In **1933 / 1939**, the Second World War broke out, with battles against **Spanish, Swedish and Swiss / German** armies from Narvik to North Africa, night-time bombing raids on British cities, and **'blood, toil, tears and sweat' / 'sun, fun and nothing to do'**, as Winston Churchill had predicted.

Following the hardships of the war and post-war years, the 'Swinging Sixties' arrived, bringing with them the **bowler hat / miniskirt** and the first pop groups such as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.



The era of the British Empire had come to an end; most of **the counties / colonies** had gained independence. Numerous immigrants from the former colonies brought new life to British society.

When the Argentine military occupied the Falkland Islands, remote in the South Atlantic, in 1982, London responded with **war / negotiations**.

Britain had joined the EU in 1973. The Channel **Bridge / Tunnel**, which opened in 1994, strengthened the link with the continent. Yet the British **held on to / gave up** their currency, the British pound, and they also remained Eurosceptic: in a referendum in June 2016, voters in the United Kingdom voted **against / for** 'Brexit', the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. Following this, Prime Minister David Cameron **rejoiced / resigned**; his successor, Theresa May, had to oversee the complicated process of withdrawal – and **failed / succeeded**. With the slogan **'Let my people go! ' / 'Let's get Brexit done!'**, the fun-loving Boris Johnson then managed to secure a deal with the EU. But then he stumbled over minor and major scandals (Partygate) during the coronavirus crisis.

In 2022, Queen Elizabeth II died after a reign of over **thirty / seventy** years. Her son Charles, the **'young-at-heart gentleman' / 'eternal heir to the throne'**, ascended the throne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as King Charles III at the age of 74.

Whilst the House of Windsor proves continuity, there has been a constant stream of prime ministers at **3 Abbey Road / 10 Downing Street**: ...Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer, Andy Burnham.....