

History of English speaking countries

1. The British Isles

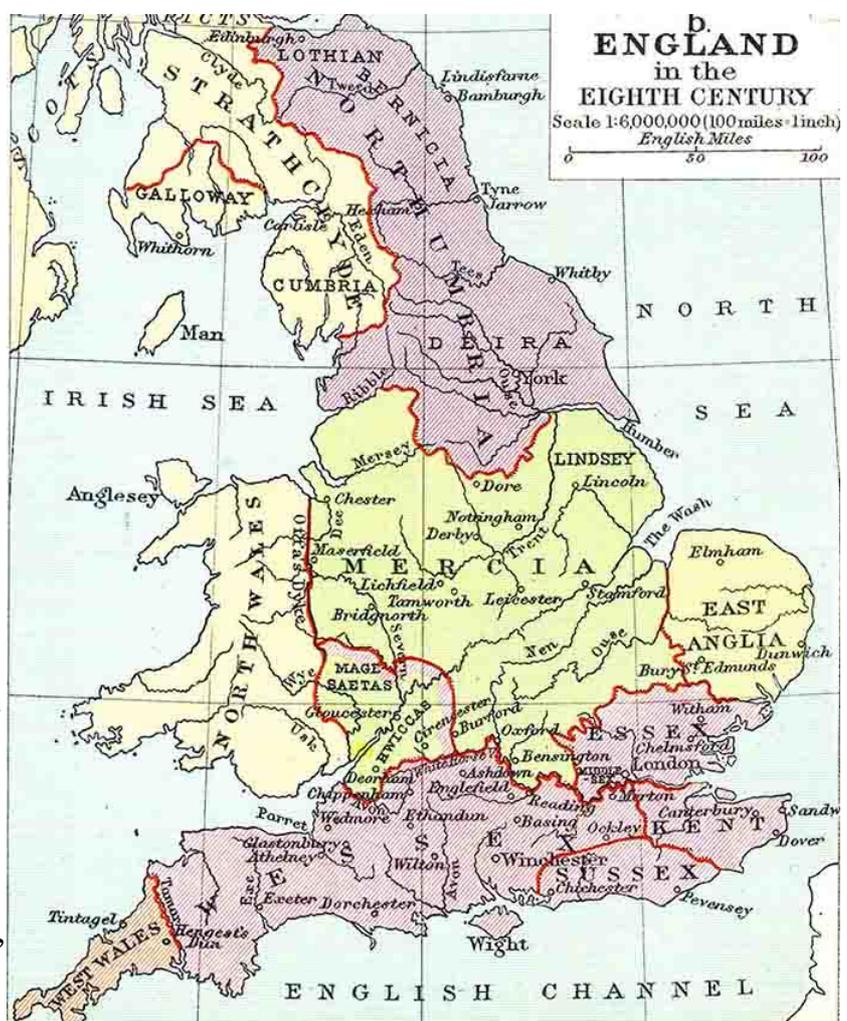
Ancient times

British isles were inhabited as far as 800 000 years ago. Around 13,000 years ago British Isles were inhabited by Celtic people. In 43 A.D. the Roman conquest of Britain began, afterwards England was under the Roman rule until the fifth century. The end of Roman rule was marked by Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britain, which historians often regarded as the origin of England and of the English people.

Medieval times

Anglo-Saxons established several petty kingdoms such as Wessex, Essex, Mercia and Northumbria. These kingdoms stretched all over England and southern Scotland. Anglo-Saxons introduced the Old English language which was very very similar to other Germanic languages. Until then people of British Isles spoke Celtic languages, which are still today spoken in some parts of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Isle of Man and Cornwall.

Around 800 A.D. raids by Vikings were quite frequent. The Vikings went as far as establishing settlements in parts of England known as Danelaw. During this time several rulers tried to unite Anglo-Saxon kingdoms against the Vikings, this effort led to the emergence of the kingdom of England in the 10th century. However in 1066 after a succession crisis the Normans invaded



England and William the Conqueror (until then known as William the bastard) became English king. At this time originally Germanic English language began to be influenced by French. The French were the aristocracy of the English kingdom. Norman Dynasty ruled England over half a century until another succession crisis known as the Anarchy. After this crisis a new Dynasty emerged, it was the Dynasty of Plantagenet. It was also a French house which had several claims in the kingdom of France. Such claims eventually led to tension between England and France. These tensions led to the Hundred Years War, it began in 1337 and ended in 1453, therefore it's actually 116 years war. Despite many victories the English lost and with it they lost all their possessions in France excluding Calais. Soon after there was a great turmoil in England which led to an outbreak of civil war. It was a dynastical war about who should sit on the English throne, the sides were the House of York and the House of Lancaster, both had roses in their emblem, therefore this conflict is known as the War of Roses. Ultimately it was no clear win for any of these sides and in 1485 Henry Tudor became English king, starting a new dynasty.

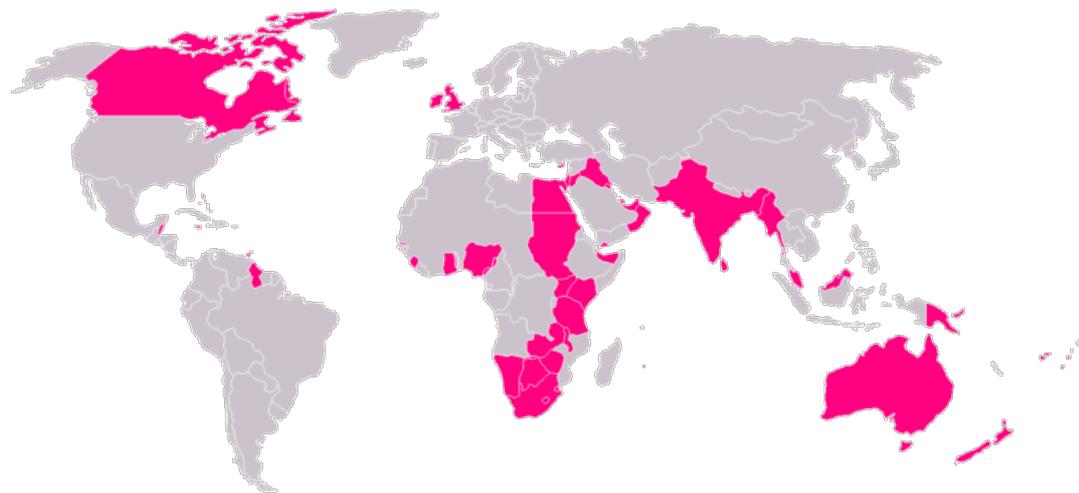
Modern times (novověk)

Tudors ruled England till Elizabeth I. . Infamous was her father, Henry VIII., he is known for establishing the Anglican church and for his many wives. In this age England slowly becomes a colonial power (at first by conquering Ireland). After the death of the Tudor dynasty, the related Scottish family Stuarts became the ruling dynasty, uniting the British Isles in process. During the rule of the Stuarts the English Civil War took place which resulted in the execution of King Charles and the establishment of a parliamentary republic known as the Commonwealth of England, in reality it was a military dictatorship led by Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell. After his death the Stuarts returned to restore the kingdom and sentenced the already dead Oliver Cromwell to death by beheading. However Stuart kings were not really beloved in England so they were deposed again, this deposition was known as the Glorious Revolution. Meanwhile the English started to settle the east coast of North America, which later became the Thirteen Colonies. In 1707 the Kingdoms of England and Scotland united and formed one Kingdom of

Great Britain. English sailed all over the world, for example famous explorer James Cook. In 18 century slowly started colonisation of India. In 18. century Great Britain participated in many wars, for example war of Spanish succession, the seven years war and last but not least the American Revolution. The last mentioned conflict led to the creation of the USA. It was a rebellion against British colonial policies. The loss of North American colonies was a huge blow for Great Britain and from that point it's focused more on it's colonies in Asia. In the end of the 18 century Industrial revolution began and it would change lives of many. Britain, being the first country to embrace industrial revolution coupled with victory in Napoleonic wars, would become the world power number one. (in 1801 Great Britain became United Kingdom).

Modern times II. (19. and 20. century)

In 19. century United Kingdom basically colonised the world, for example Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Egypt, Canada and many others. At its



peak Britain controlled the largest empire humankind has ever known, about quarter of the worlds population lived inside the borders of British Empire. It was truly an empire on which Sun never set. After violent beginning of 20. century Britain, despite it's victories, would lose it's position as the greatest world power. Now is famous leadership of Winston Churchill during second world war. After rising unhappiness in many of its colonies they decided to decolonize. Officially the Empire ended in 1997 when it handed it's last remaining colony, Hong Kong, to China.

2. History of USA

Beginnings

After rebellion against British rule, then Thirteen colonies declared themselves independent country, the United States America. First president the leader of revolution George Washington.

After him followed other founding fathers. United

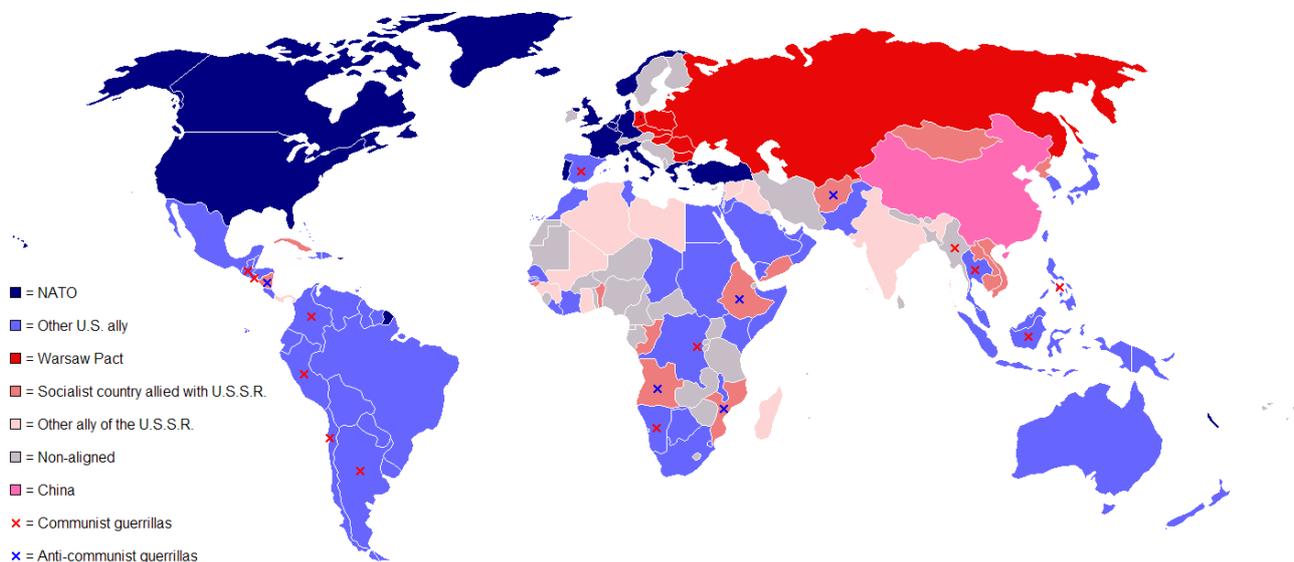


States doubled in size with purchase of Louisiana from the French in 1803. Then the United States decided to spread freedom of the west coast as well, therefore they declared war on Mexico. From Mexico they gained for example New Mexico, Arizona and California. In 1860s terrible Civil War raged between northern states and southern states. Defeat of southern states lead to abolishment of slavery, during presidency of Abraham Lincoln. Later in 19th century United States became world's biggest industrial power. They bought Alaska from Russia, annexed Hawaii and build Panama canal.

Modern times

In 20. century they eventually joined the First World War. By France and the United Kingdom weakened by this terrible conflict, USA became worlds most powerful nation. In interwar period had the US bright moments of growth but also great economic depression. President Franklin D. Roosevelt dealt with big depression by economic plan called New deal. In 1939 world war two broke out in Europe. United States were dragged into this conflict in 1941 by Japanese attack on naval base of Pearl Harbor. After victory in ww2 USA emerged as one of the worlds superpowers. The

other one being the Soviet union. Between USA and Soviet Union were great tensions known as the Cold War, but they never fought each other. During 50s and 60s civil rights activist Martin Luther King successfully argued for emancipation of Afroamericans in USA. Also US supported South Vietnam in Vietnamese war which they eventually lost. There was a great public disapproval of this conflict. During cold war several other crises emerged, for example Berlin crisis or Cuban crisis. During Cuban crisis was presidency of famous J. F. Kennedy. He was later shot. In 1989 lot of revolutions took place in countries of eastern block and in 1991 the Soviet Union dissolved. After that USA remained sole global superpower.



Useful vocabulary-

Succession – následnictví

Deposition – sesazení

Influence – vliv

Independence – nezávislost

Declare – vyhlásit

Establish – nastolit

Restore – znovunastolit

Sole – jediný

Ruler – vládce nebo pravítko

dissolution - rozpad