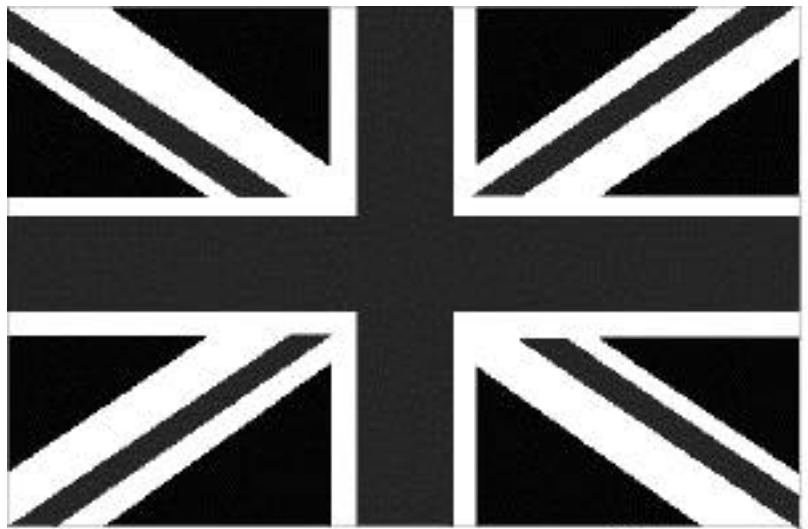


# BRITAIN

BEGINNING OF THE 20th  
CENTURY

1860 - 1914



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# POLITICAL SYSTEM

- the parliamentary government remained under the ruling of the Monarchy
- by 1900 a labor party was formed to represent the working class
- almost all men had to vote
- government intervention in areas such as public health, education and social legislation increased dramatically
- political philosophy became powerful

# Economic and Industrial Change

- Britain dominated industrial development in the first revolution
- slow to moving to new fields
- showed lack of support for scientific research and development
- unions linked to political parties and by 1900 Britain had two million unionists
- There was rapid growth of industrial cities and ports eg. London: 1800 – 831 000; 1900 – 4 536 000.
- Cities without industries suffered and declined in size

# Social Change

- rapid growth of two new classes, the working class or proletariat and the middle class
- power of aristocracy slowly declined
- Until the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were no pensions, no dole, and government help in any way for the poor, the sick, the out of work, or the old.
- Unemployment benefit or dole appeared in 1913.
- Women too were also demanding a fairer deal for themselves.
- There was still dreadful poverty in many parts of the country

# Military Strength

- The British Empire, like all empires, was acquired by force of arms. By 1900 Britain had the largest navy in the world, and used it to control an Empire "on which the sun never set".
  - the population – 46407037
  - annual value of foreign trade – 1223152000
  - battleships – 64
  - soldiers available on mobilisation – 711000
- expenditure on defense – 74529000

# Overseas Empire

- it had imperial power over India, Africa, South East Asia and China
- Joseph Chamberlain, colonial secretary in the new conservative ministry aimed at building an empire and making Britain an imperialist country to overpower rivals such as Germany and the United States.

# Foreign Policy

- 1870 – 1871 – leader of the industrial world, but under challenge from Germany and the USA
- 1877 – Queen Victoria and empress of India
- 1878 – Foreign policy of splendid isolation, Britain avoided joining any European alliance during the last decade of the century
- 1899 – Boer war victory difficult for Britain. Lead to army reorganisation and search for allies.
- 1900 – Boxer rebellion in China.
- 1902 – Anglo-Japanese alliance. Naval race with Germany.
- 1904 - Entente Cordiale; French given free hand in Morocco
- 1906 – battleship dreadnought launched
- 1907 – Anglo-Russian treaty triple entente
- 1913 – Defense spending increased
- 1914 – declared war on Germany

# Queen Victoria



- Queen Victoria reigned from 1837 - 1901.
- She was the successor of William IV.
- She was a great asset to Britain as she gained back a lot of power that her Uncle had lost. Despite her unpopularity in the beginning she victoriously made the Crown the best loved institution in Britain.
- She was devoted to her duty, intellectual and had strong willpower.

# British Empire

