The Orme Academy — EMPOWERING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

The Orme Academy — EMPOWERING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

Empire Windrush and the scandal that followed

The Windrush Generation refers to Caribbean citizens who were invited by the British government to come to the UK between 1948 and 1971, with the aim to help rebuild the country after World War II. Named after the ship HMT Empire Windrush, these migrants faced challenges such as racism and hostility. Despite contributing significantly to British society in various fields, some faced unfair treatment, including the 2018 Windrush scandal, where many were wrongfully detained or deported due to changes in immigration policies.

INTRODUCTION

The British Empire was one of the largest empires in history, spanning the 16th to the mid-20th century. It included colonies and territories across the world, influencing global trade, **culture**, and politics. While it brought **economic** and infrastructural development, it also imposed **colonialism**, exploitation, and cultural assimilation, leaving a complex legacy.

The reasons for the British to have an Empire.

1.**Economic development:** The British Empire played a significant role in spreading trade and industry around the world. It helped the trading of goods, technology, and ideas, which contributed to economic growth in Britain.

2.**Spread of religion:** The British used the Empire to spread Christianity to different parts of the world where they saw many other faiths, and cultures, as being inferior and needing British intervention.

3.**Education and institutions:** The British introduced their education systems and legal organisations in many colonies, which helped to develop intellectual and political development.

4.**English language:** The spread of the English language as a global language helped the British to become a dominant power in 19th century political history.

5.**Cultural exchange:** The British Empire enabled cultural exchange and the blending of diverse traditions and ideas, leading to cultural enrichment and diversity in many parts of the world.

The scramble for Africa

The Scramble for Africa was a period of extreme European colonial expansion in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Scramble for Africa was driven by a confluence of factors, including economic interests, the search for new markets and raw materials and a sense of European racial and cultural superiority. This imperialistic rush resulted in the random division of the African continent into colonial territories, often with little regard for ethnic, cultural, or geographic realities. Borders were drawn without the consent of local populations, leading to numerous ethnic and territorial conflicts that persist to this day.

The Amritsar Massacre, 1919

The Amritsar Massacre occurred on April 13, 1919, in Amritsar, Punjab, India, during British colonial rule. General Reginald Dyer, without warning, ordered British troops to open fire on a peaceful gathering of thousands of Indian men, women, and children who had assembled at Jallianwala Bagh to protest the rule of 10 put on the Indian people. The troops blocked the only exit to the park where the protest was, firing for around ten minutes, resulting in the deaths of hundreds and injuries to many more. Dyer's motivation was to crush the protest and instil fear. The massacre shocked India and the world, sparking widespread outrage and protests.

The Irish Famine

The Irish Potato Famine was caused by a potato blight, a plant disease that severely affected the potato crop in Ireland. The famine, which occurred from 1845 to 1852, resulted in widespread crop failures and a devastating food shortage. While the potato blight itself was a natural disaster, the British government's response to the famine made the issue worse. The British government's economic policies, which emphasized laissez-faire capitalism and limited government intervention, influenced its response to the famine. It was slow to provide support, and even took food out of Ireland and believed that trade could make the issue better. Many Irish people were forced out of their homes by the British and sent to Liverpool and New York to deal with the problem.

Britain in India

Many British ships first arrived at ports and traded exotic items for guns, swords, buttons or shoes. The exotic goods that they got back they sold for huge profits. Eventually, the British set up The East India Company. The company's ships carried cheap goods and then exchanged them in different foreign countries, such as Japan and China. With this, they bought fine china, silks, coffee and spices and took them back to Britain. As a result, India became a base to allow Britain to become a global trading power. The Kings and Queens of Britain and the businessmen made vast fortunes from this company.

The Scramble for Africa 1880-1914