

Roman Britain

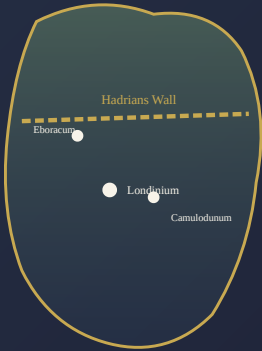
43 AD - 410 AD - The Empire Arrives on the Island

In 43 AD, Emperor Claudius launched the Roman invasion of Britain, bringing the island into the Roman Empire for nearly four centuries. The Romans built roads, forts, baths, and thriving cities, reshaping the landscape and governance of the island.

Hadrian's Wall, constructed around 122 AD under Emperor Hadrian, marked the northern frontier of the empire. Urban centres like Londinium (London), Eboracum (York), and Camulodunum (Colchester) flourished as administrative and commercial hubs.

By 410 AD, with the empire under pressure from barbarian incursions, Emperor Honorius withdrew Roman legions and told British cities to defend themselves, leaving a power vacuum that shaped the next era.

- ▶ Roman occupation lasted roughly 367 years
- ▶ Hadrian's Wall: 73 miles long, built in about 6 years
- ▶ Londinium reached an estimated 60,000 inhabitants at its peak
- ▶ Christianity introduced to Britain during the Roman period



43 AD Invasion	122 AD Wall Built	410 AD Withdrawal
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Medieval Britain

1066 - 1485 - Conquest, Plague, and the Foundations of Parliament

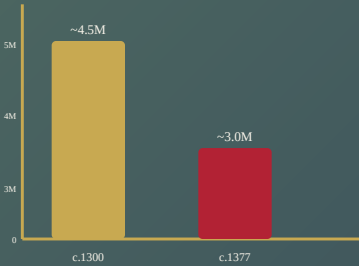
The medieval era was defined by the Norman Conquest of 1066, when William the Conqueror defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings. The Normans introduced feudalism, castles, and a new aristocracy that reshaped English society and land ownership.

In 1215, King John was forced to seal Magna Carta at Runnymede, establishing the principle that even the monarch was subject to law. Parliament evolved from royal councils into representative bodies during this period.

The Black Death of 1348-49 killed an estimated one-third of England's population, transforming the social and economic landscape. The era ended with the Wars of the Roses and the rise of the Tudor dynasty in 1485.

- ▶ Battle of Hastings: 14 October 1066
- ▶ Magna Carta sealed: 15 June 1215
- ▶ Black Death killed roughly 1.5 million people in England
- ▶ First Parliament convened in 1265 under Simon de Montfort

England: Estimated Population



Source: Historical population estimates

1066

Norman Conquest

1215

Magna Carta

1348

Black Death

1485

Tudor Rise

Tudor & Stuart Era

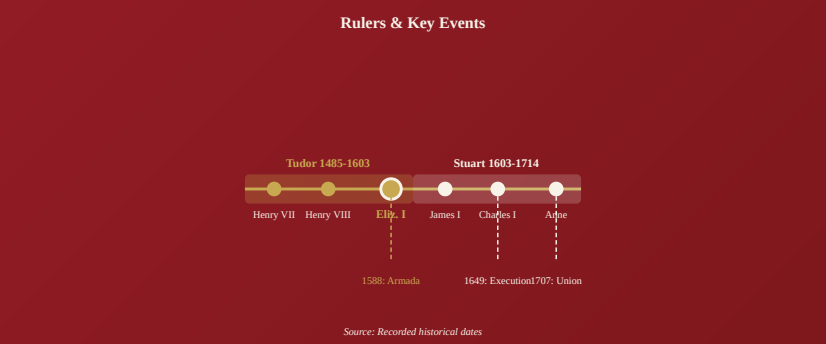
1485 - 1714 - *Reformation, Revolution, and the Union of Crowns*

The Tudor dynasty began with Henry VII in 1485 and reached its most famous ruler in Henry VIII, whose break with the Roman Catholic Church in the 1530s transformed England into a Protestant nation. The Dissolution of the Monasteries redistributed vast wealth to the crown and nobility.

Elizabeth I's reign (1558-1603) is often called England's Golden Age - marked by the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588, Shakespeare's literary flourishing, and overseas exploration. Elizabeth died without an heir, passing the throne to James VI of Scotland, uniting the crowns in 1603.

The Stuart period saw the English Civil War (1642-51), the execution of Charles I, Cromwell's republic, and the Glorious Revolution of 1688, which established constitutional monarchy. The Act of Union in 1707 formally created Great Britain.

- ▶ Spanish Armada defeated: 1588
- ▶ English Civil War: 1642-1651
- ▶ Glorious Revolution: 1688
- ▶ Act of Union creating Great Britain: 1707



Industrial Revolution & Empire

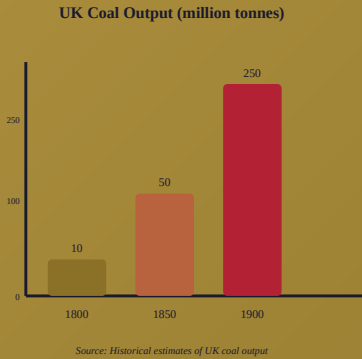
1750 - 1901 - Steam, Steel, and the Rise of Global Britain

The Industrial Revolution began in Britain in the mid-18th century, transforming the nation from an agrarian society into the workshop of the world. Innovations in steam power, textile manufacturing, and iron production drove unprecedented economic growth and urbanisation.

James Watt's improved steam engine (1769), the spinning jenny, and the railway boom connected cities and industries. By 1850, Britain produced over half the world's iron and cotton cloth. The population shifted dramatically from countryside to factory towns.

At its height around 1900, the British Empire covered nearly 25% of the world's land surface and ruled over 400 million people. Queen Victoria's reign (1837-1901) became synonymous with industrial might, imperial expansion, and social reform.

- ▶ Steam engine improved by James Watt: 1769
- ▶ Britain produced over 50% of world iron by 1850
- ▶ British Empire covered ~25% of Earth's land at its peak
- ▶ Queen Victoria reigned 63 years, the longest until that time



1769 Watt Engine	1825 First Railway	1837 Victoria Crowned	1851 Great Exhibition
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Modern Britain

1945 - Present - From Post-War Recovery to a Diverse Democracy

After World War II, Britain underwent profound transformation. The creation of the National Health Service in 1948 and the Welfare State reshaped social policy. Decolonisation saw the British Empire dissolve over decades, with India's independence in 1947 marking a turning point.

Britain joined the European Economic Community in 1973, linking its economy to the continent. Decades of immigration from former colonies transformed Britain into a multicultural society. The devolution of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in the late 1990s reshaped governance.

In 2020, Britain became the first country to leave the European Union (Brexit), redefining its global relationships. Today the UK remains a major economy, cultural powerhouse, and parliamentary democracy, navigating new challenges and opportunities.

- ▶ NHS founded: 5 July 1948
- ▶ India independence: 15 August 1947
- ▶ Joined EEC: 1 January 1973
- ▶ Brexit completed: 31 January 2020

