

3.1 Britain and the world

➔ What happened to the British Empire?

➔ How has Brexit affected Britain?



Britain as a world power

1

BRITISH EMPIRE

- ➔ expansion of Empire to the east
after loss of North American colonies
→ trade = wealth for Britain
- ➔ imposed Western values on native
populations

3

INDIA

- ➔ colonisation: for trade and political purposes
- ➔ 1947: independence from Britain
→ controversial partition into India and
Pakistan → riots and displaced people
- ➔ today: strong economy; good education for
the well-off; caste system more flexible

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POST-COLONIALISM

- ➔ newly independent nations had to
rediscover their own identity
- ➔ today: calls on Britain to confront its
colonial past and make reparations

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THE COMMONWEALTH

- ➔ formed to maintain economic ties with
former colonies
- ➔ educational, cultural, professional exchange

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BREXIT

- ➔ referendum in 2016: slight majority voted to leave → process completed 2020
- ➔ loss of economic benefits e.g. single market; shortage of workers
- ➔ lack of promised benefits, e.g. fewer immigrants, more money for NHS
- ➔ loss of freedom of movement for UK citizens

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

to conquer	erobern
conscript	Einberufung
controversial	umstritten
empire	Reich
to govern	regieren, verwalten

to invoke	aktivieren
negotiations	Verhandlungen
partition	Aufteilung
penal colony	Strafkolonie
persecution	Verfolgung

reparations	Wiedergutmachungen
riot	Unruhen
to settle	besiedeln
slavery	Sklaverei