

Retrospect

Empire

Sutton Grammar School
History Society presents



The Japanese
Empire



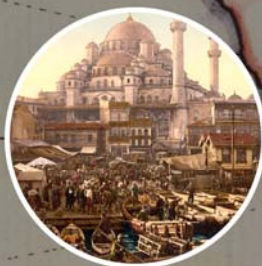
The British Empire:
A Debate



An American
Empire?



The Galactic
Empire



The Ottoman
Empire



The Failure of
The Third Reich

PLUS: The Top 10 Emperors

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OF ENDURANCE
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Dear Readers,

This second issue of Retrospect focuses on perhaps the most formative historical topic: Empire. The breadth of global Empires past and present is reflected in the wide range of articles covered within this magazine; stretching from BCE years to today and from China to Britain, this issue of Retrospect considers the positives and negatives of Empires and their collapses. So please, enjoy.

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World Empires



This picture shows the various empires on a global scale. The Russian Empire is the vast stretch of land in the central north to the north east. It is colour coded in a light greenish shade; we can see how the prosperous empire compared to others around the world, spanning from Eastern Europe all the way to Far East Asia past the Qing Empire. What is, perhaps, the most significant – and yet understated—element of this map is the sheer vastness of global Empires: the majority of the world’s land was colonised only one hundred years ago. This map therefore shows how destructive and constructive the twentieth century was: causing

old Empires to crumble and new countries to emerge from their ruins.

Sean Titus-Glover—10 Blue

What Role did the Japanese Emperor have during World War Two?

The Japanese Empire which existed from the Meiji restoration in 1868 to the enactment of the 1947 constitution of modern Japan led to Japan becoming a world power. Industrialisation and militarization were at the forefront of the Great Japanese Empire and led to Japan attaining control of a large part of the Asia-Pacific area. Under the slogan “Enrich the country, strengthen the armed forces,” the Japanese empire laid claim to 7,400,400 square kilometres of area making it one of the largest maritime empires in history. The emperor of Japan today, holds a ceremonial role in Japan’s system of a constitutional monarchy and is the head of the imperial family. The immense role that Japan played in World War Two is undoubtable. Holding one of the largest naval forces and one of the world’s largest economies, the emperor of Japan at the time had the power to change the way the war was fought indefinitely. However, what did Hirohito, the Japanese emperor at

the time, do and what was his role in his country’s involvement in World War Two? Though Hirohito later portrayed himself as a virtually powerless constitutional monarch, many scholars have come to believe he played an active role in the war effort.

Hirohito, otherwise known as Emperor Showa, was the 24th emperor of Japan reigning from December the 5th 1926 to his death in 1989. Democracy was reaching the summit of its power in Japan when Hirohito came to authority, and with the introduction of a male suffrage law, political parties in Japan were beginning to take control away from the Emperor. However, Hirohito showed no lack of control, and a sequence of lucrative political deaths which the emperor was thought to be behind, reinforced his supremacy. Furthermore, a plunging economy and escalating militarism led to a democratic debacle and saw Hirohito regain public support he may have lost in his early



years of reign. This therefore, acts as evidence that he most likely had a wider range of military control in World War Two than some believe. Moreover, from the decline in democracy in Japan before the war his power would have been accentuated and consequently his role most likely lead to most of the decisions made by Japan during the war. For instance, the decision to join Nazi Germany in September 1940 with the Tripartite Pact was not a decision most left wing democratic powers at the time in Japan were likely to make.

Many historians and scholars believe the role that the current Japanese Emperor holds (i.e. that of a symbolic nature) was also Hirohito's role during the war. A letter from Hirohito to the Prime Minister of Ja-



pan at the time expressed Hirohito's pacifism and lack of yearning for war which changes how we perceive the decisions he made. The reliability of this source is questionable, however, as most of the information about the emperor was well documented and the comments made in the letter relate to that information about the emperor documented at the time. Likewise, another argument for his restricted power in Japan is the decision to join a battle with America which was not decided

by Hirohito and is generally documented as a decision he was forced into by political pressure from right wing parties across Japan. This could represent an absence of control that Hirohito held and may show his role as a figure which was used to keep the public on the side of the decisions being made by other higher powers in Japan during the years of conflict.

The evidence from Japan during the war was mostly destroyed by the high powers in Japan and therefore, most arguments about how much power the Japanese emperor held and what role he played are primarily opinion based. Furthermore the fact that the allies chose not to persecute the Japanese emperor and leave him as a ceremonial figure, which the emperor of Japan still is today, shows their view of his role at the time. However, one tragic event that may be linked to Hirohito is the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki which were as a direct consequence of his decision to certify the bombing of Pearl Harbour. The role of Hirohito as Japanese emperor during World War Two is largely debatable. However, from the little evidence available his role in the war is most likely much more fundamental than many believe. Hirohito was a key figure in the wide range of Emperors across the world and one of the most remarkable leaders in modern history.

Nicholas Veerapen—9 Brown



Modern-day America: An Empire?

The American Empire?’ I hear you say. Yes, the American Empire.

An empire isn’t just territories which a single nation has captured and taken political control of. No, to quote Wikipedia: *‘Aside from the traditional usage, the term empire can be used in an extended sense to denote a large-scale business enterprise (e.g., a transnational corporation), or a political organisation of either national, regional or city scale, controlled either by a person (a political boss) or a group authority (political bosses).’*

In these terms, both military, culturally and financially, the American Empire is the largest of all time. Since its birth in Washington in 1776, the USA has invaded or been at war with 18 different countries. North Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq are the obvious ones but the US has also battled Britain, France, Libya, Mexico, Cuba, North Korea, Somalia, Grenada, Japan, Germany, Lebanon, Italy, Algeria, Cambodia and Nicaragua (in secret). America has won every war it has ever fought, bar Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, which are all questionable.

The US covers 7% of the world’s land mass. The countries that it has defeated cover 30% of the earth’s land mass. It is true that

US troops don’t presently occupy all of these countries but there are aspects of empires that mean the US still control all of these nations.

Debt.

You don’t need soldiers to control a nation. Banks and economic hit men will do. The USSR was right when referred to Marshall Aid as ‘dollar imperialism’. America has always borrowed money from the World Bank, but for a country of this size its debt levels have always been low. The only time its debts have been a real worry was after both World Wars and the expensive farce in Vietnam. In fact America has always been one of the world’s highest lenders. Most of Europe, including Britain and Germany, shared around more than \$14 billion after the Second World War. It’s not just the EU that owes the USA. Luxembourg, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Russia, Taiwan and Brazil are all still in debt to the US along with most of South-East Asia and huge parts of both East and West Africa. In some cases the US has written off debts that smaller countries owe them, but these are often replaced with trade deals that benefit the US. Throughout the late 20th and 21st century most American produce would have ‘Made in China/Malaysia/Vietnam’ written on its underside or its label. In the

cases of those three nations, they now owe nothing to the US but instead make produce for it on the cheap and they have been overrun with cheap, fake American produce.

This leads me onto the last aspect of empires, the spreading of the culture of the mother nation. It was seen in the British Empire (part of the reason at least half the world now speak English), in the Ottoman Empire (Islam is the most prominent religion across the Middle East) and in the Third Reich (part of the reason Beethoven's music is so famous).

The culture the American Empire has spread is different, but is far more widespread. Have you ever eaten a doughnut? Or bought a Big Mac at McDonalds? Do you own a pair of Nike sneakers? Do you own any Apple gear? Have you ever listened to Hip-Hop or any form of American music? Heck, have you ever done 'the dougie'?

These are all American commercial phenomenon, spread by trade. There were 250 McDonalds stores across the world in 1980, and as of 2011 there are now 1,400. Nike have at least one store in almost every country in the world. French Hip-Hop is booming. In fact, obesity levels globally are shooting up! Slowly, the world is copying every move that America makes.

But I have been very negative haven't I? It's worth pointing out that the American Em-

pire is the first outside the Earth's main landmass, 'Eurasia'. Establishing an empire from North America is a huge feat, although it has been aided by huge technological advancements.

It is also worth pointing out that the American Empire is the largest of all time. In fact, it can only be equalled now. Its exponential growth over the last century means that it now spans every single country in the world, in one way or another. Whether it's via Russian youths wearing Nikes, through Chinese people making heavily filtered Google searches, or George Osborne attempting to accommodate interest payments to America in his budget, every single country in the world is part of the American Empire.

We might as well pledge allegiance every morning.

Elias Wachenje—10 Red





The Mongol Empire

The Mongol Empire existed under the Great Khans between 1206 and 1370, peaking in 1279. The Mongol Empire is the second largest empire in history surpassed only by the British Empire. It covered 33 million kilometres squared, 22.29% of the total land area on Earth and included 31 modern day countries ranging from Belarus to China to Iraq, encompassing large parts of Asia, Eastern and Southern Europe. The Mongol Empire also held within it 110 million people who at that point in time made up 25.6 % of the total population of the Earth at that point in time. The sheer scale of the Empire therefore is clear to see.

The founder of the Mongol Empire and the first Great Khan was Genghis Khan. Born as Temujin, when he took control of the Mongol tribe they controlled comparatively little land in what is now Southern Russia and Northern China. He went against Mongol tradition by appointing his advisors and leaders on merit rather than on family ties. Temujin's first aim was to unite the Mongols in the area under his rule; this meant that he had to defeat the other tribes around

him. However, as an incentive for his civilians and soldiers he promised them a share of the spoils gaining support from his subjects. Furthermore, he also strengthened his position by encompassing the con-



quered tribe into his own and even adopting orphans of the tribe. This not only secured support from the conquered tribe it also helped to bolster his army. Through the use of modern army tactics, such as siege tactics and the use of an extensive spy network, Temujin managed to conquer the 5 main tribes, the Merkits, Naimans, Keraites, Tatars and Uyghurs as well as other smaller tribes. More importantly he man-

aged to unite them under him as the 'Mongols'. In 1206 after establishing control of the Mongol plains he was named as Khan (ruler) and took the name Genghis Khan, officially founding the Mongol Empire.

Genghis Khan subsequently vastly expanded his empire; first he took the province of Western Xia in North West China. He completed the invasion in 1209. Next, in 1211 he invaded the land of the Jin Dynasty, capturing the capital Zhongdu, modern day Beijing, and forcing the Jin emperor south to Kaifeng. This was captured by his son, Ögedei Khan in 1233 and the Jin dynasty collapsed in 1234. Next Genghis Khan invaded the Kara-Khitan Empire, which now encompasses parts of China, Russia and Mongolia amongst other countries. However, his troops were tired after years of continuous fighting and so he only sent 20,000 men. They therefore had to use different tactics by inciting rebellion from within instead of crushing the enemy with military force. This was successful and by 1218 Kara-Khitan was also under the control of the Mongols. Genghis Khan however was also interested in trade and he sent an envoy to the

Khwarazmian shah in what is now mainly Iran. This envoy was killed however and consequently Genghis Khan invaded. Despite the strength of the Khwarazmian Empire, the Mongols spread their troops out allowing them to pick off the enemy armies one by one, leading them to victory in 1220. During the 1220's Mongol forces stretched into Russia, Bulgaria, Georgia and the Crimea defeating many along the way. These countries eventually sued for peace and Genghis Khan left them for the time being. In 1227 Genghis Khan died passing onto his son Ögedei Khan.

Ögedei Khan not only expanded south into China destroying the Jin Dynasty he also subjugated Persian states and brought them under Mongol rule. Furthermore, he pushed on into Eastern Europe and the Indian Sub-Continent. He was stopped in Poland and Hungary however, by a coalition of Christian orders including the Knights Templar. When in 1241 Ögedei Khan died a power struggle ensued and it wasn't until 1246 that Güyük Khan took control but it was only 2 years before he also died. Another power struggle ensued and this time it took until 1251 for Möngke Khan to take control. Möngke Khan stabilised the economy of the Mongol Empire with tax and administrative reforms. After solving this issue, Möngke Khan sought to expand the Empire's borders - further invading and capturing parts of the Middle East and Southern China. Once again when Möngke Khan died in 1259 there was yet another power struggle - this time a civil war between two brothers of Möngke Khan,



Kublai and Ariqboke. Kublai won and was named as the next Great Khan. Kublai Khan further expanded into China erasing the

tactics such as siege tactics. Furthermore, the army was incredibly well organised with careful planning and reconnaissance going into every battle. They were however undeniably brutal and the Mongol invasions were thought to have killed around 30,000,000 people. They used fear tactics and incredible brutality to subjugate their citizens. Despite this, if not defied the Mongols were often fair, the law was strictly enforced against many crimes and they were also religiously tolerant and indeed there were Mongols following virtually every religion at the time. The Mongol Empire was also incredibly sophisticated when it came to trade, foreign merchants were encouraged and trade played an important part in the Empire. Furthermore, the empire encompassed the Silk Road, a vital trade route through the area. The Mongol Empire also gave women the right to divorce and discouraged foot binding. The Mongols also came up with an ingenious method for delivering mail, known as the Yam. The messenger would travel 25 miles before either receiving a fresh, rested horse, or relaying the mail to the next rider to ensure the speediest possible delivery. They could cover 150 miles in a day and it was hugely sophisticated for the time. However, whether these successes mitigate the horrors of mass starvation and mass execution that the Mongols brought with them is debatable. What is not debatable however is the fact that the Mongol Empire was hugely successful and made a huge impact on the world.



Song Dynasty and Kublai named himself the new emperor of China, establishing the Yuan Dynasty. This was the peak of Mongol power and after 1279 the empire began to split up. After Kublai Khan's death in 1294 the empire split into four sections - the Golden Horde, the Chagatai Khanate, the Great Yuan and the Ilkhanate. Although they remained loosely connected they drifted away from each other. These four states were all faced with rebellion from non-Mongol leaders and they slowly disintegrated, losing control of Persia, China and Eastern Europe. They either split up or massively reduced in size or were destroyed completely. The remnants of Mongol rule continued to rule Mongolia until 1635.

Although comparatively short lived, the Mongol Empire was one of the most powerful and successful in history and much of this must be attributed to their skills in warfare. Mongol troops were highly trained and relied on speed and agility mainly on horseback. They also embraced modern warfare

Matt Vandeppeer—Year 12



How not to create an Empire: The Third Reich

If you want to build a domineering empire, what do you need? Through investigating why Hitler's Third Reich failed and where he went wrong you can learn from his mistakes and learn how to create an empire!

Firstly, you need a tactically strong commander so that you can win the territories that you would like. This was Hitler's first mistake – he made himself the 'Führer' when he was not a military mastermind (he was only a corporal in WWI) and made many errors which ultimately led to the end of his dream of German supremacy. Throughout WWII, Hitler overestimated the power of his own army and underestimated the strength of his opposition.

Furthermore, Hitler didn't understand the logistics of running an army, shown through operation Barbarossa. The German Army couldn't keep moving at 'lightning' speed, as Blitzkrieg required, because the supply lines were too far behind the infantry. As a result of the failure of Blitzkrieg, the Germans hadn't won the war by the time the Russian winter settled in and that was a key turning point in the war, as the German army was unprepared for the harsh winter.

Hitler opened up a war on multiple fronts

when he invaded Russia, something commanders have known for years not to do. This was probably because Hitler was overconfident after his success in the rest of the Europe and his victories in Africa. Therefore, he believed that Germany could occupy Russia too, a country with a population of 170 million, with a mere 3 million men. However, part of the reason for deploying a relatively small army on the Eastern Front was that the German Army was too stretched out to commit any more resources. In my opinion, it was also due to two main errors of judgement: Hitler's overrating of the German army and Hitler think-



ing that it would be the underdeveloped WWI Russia that Germany would have to battle and not the new developed country, which had been vastly militarised by Stalin.

Hitler also had a poor system of command deployed in the ranks of his German army, due to the fact that he wanted to be in control of everything (all orders had to be verified by him). This meant that military tacticians and strategists, more adept than him, were not used to their full potential. For example, during the run-up to D-day, Field marshal Rommel requested to move some of the German army's top panzer divisions to Normandy, but Hitler didn't accept the request, despite Rommel proving himself in the African campaign. This mistake allowed the allies to advance off the beaches and, eventually, secure the rest of Europe. Hitler didn't allow some high staff orders to be carried out because they were not his own.

A good commander can win you the military battles, but can you win over the people to hold an empire? A Hitler-led Germany could not. Hitler had too many extreme views, which upset and conflicted with too many people. Hitler also used fear and terror to rule – his wishes enforced by a brutal, barbaric Gestapo which showed no mercy, torturing and killing thousands of people in occupied countries. Also, Hitler was not a popular or inspirational leader and occupied countries did not believe that he could lead them to a 'greater good'. It is arguable that many German people believed the same thing.

Once Hitler conquered countries, no care was shown towards them and they were not treated well, with German officers taking over and dominating all aspects of life. The ordinary civilians were left completely unsatisfied and therefore often rebelled against the axis powers to try and regain a better life. Hence, many resistance groups operated all over the axis' zones of occupation, from communists to French-freedom fighters.

Furthermore, if Hitler's own armies (with the exception of the like-minded SS Panzers) lost their commitment to him and the Third Reich, how would the occupied people ever show commitment to him?

So, if you would like to create an empire, there are two key stages to succeeding. There is the gaining period and then the sustaining period of the empire. To make sure that both of these are a success, then do not do what Hitler did – do the opposite and learn through the past errors. Good luck!

James Hudson—10 Green



Quotations on Empires

“A great empire, like a great cake, is most easily diminished at the edges.”

- Benjamin Franklin

“An empire founded by war has to maintain itself by war.”

- Charles de Montesquieu

“The Spanish Empire eventually collapsed because of its expensive taste for warfare and conquest.”

- Robert Kiyosaki

“Great Britain has lost an Empire and has not yet found a role”

- Dean Acheson

The Ottoman Empire

Formally established in 1299 by the Oghuz Turks, the Ottoman or Turkish Empire was one of the longest lasting Empires in history, spanning no less than seven centuries. At its peak, the Ottoman Empire covered 5,200,000 km² of land, including Turkey, Egypt, Greece and much of Eastern Europe and Northern Africa (as can be seen in **Figure 1**). Coupled, these facts give rise to the interpretation that the Ottoman Empire was



Figure 1: Map showing the Ottoman Empire at its peak, Anatolia is circled

one of the most powerful and most influential Empires in human existence.

In the early 14th century, the Byzantine Empire ruled a large percentage of the land surrounding Turkey, but significantly, the westernmost protrusion of Asia known as Anatolia was fragmented. The south was collectively owned by Ghazi emirates- small units of Turkish ideologists, whilst the North was owned by the Byzantines. The most dominant of the southern principalities was

led by Osman I, and it was he, alongside his son Orhan, who created the first military unit of the Empire. Together, they drove for the takeover of the Northern region of Anatolia, and eventually captured the city of Bursa in 1324. Various other victories in the subsequent decades such as the victory at Kosovo 1389, paved the way for the large scale expansion of the Ottoman Empire. The Byzantine Empire made a comeback in the late 14th century and decades of minor wars led to the loss and recovery of various regions, but it wasn't until the mid-15th century that the true rise of the Ottoman Empire gathered pace.

It was an Ottoman by the name of Mehmed II who confirmed the fall of Byzantine when he captured the capital, Constantinople, in 1453. Much of the city was destroyed during the takeover, and people from other Ottoman regions were imported to replenish the reduced population. As a Muslim dominated Empire, it is noteworthy that Mehmed allowed the Orthodox Church to maintain its sovereignty in exchange for acceptance of the empire. Yet Mehmed's seemingly relaxed approach to leadership stopped there, imposing extravagant taxes, one of which forced conquered Christian communities to surrender twenty percent of their male children to the state. This was not the only significant alteration made by



Mehmed. The trade industry was expanded to include silk and porcelain and consequently, the economy flourished. On top of this, the military was quickly expanded, and the Ottomans were one of the first armies to consistently use muskets and cannons. Although Mehmed made substantial and mostly beneficial changes to the structure of the Empire and is extremely well regarded, his reign was relatively short-lived, only lasting two years. Mehmed's successor- Sultan Selim I, continued the expansion, successfully conquering the Mamluk Empire of Egypt and Syria. A Sultan roughly corresponded to what we accept as a king or queen, holding the highest position in the administrative system. Although Selim's reign was also brief, he did introduce one of the most intriguing concepts of the whole period- fratricide. Whenever a new Sultan ascended to the throne, his brothers would be imprisoned. As soon as the Sultan had produced his first son, the brothers (and their sons) would be killed. The new Sultan's sons would be then confined until their father's death, upon which the whole system would start again.

Despite the significant reigns of both Mehmed and Selim, arguably, the Ottoman Empire was still yet to reach its peak. The

son of Selim I, Suleiman the Magnificent, is the most accredited ruler across the history of the Empire, and yet he came to power over two centuries after the Ottoman's formation in 1299. Largely owed to the work of Suleiman's father, the Ottoman Empire now included so much of the territory where Islam was practiced, and so many of the Islamic holy places, that Suleiman was widely regarded as the religious leader of Islam, as well as the leader of the Empire. The Empire's wealth and stability was further enhanced by the attraction of the top Muslim brains of the era, including craftsmen and intellectuals. By the end of Suleiman's reign, the Empire's population totalled about 15,000,000, extending over three continents. Furthermore, the Empire became a dominant naval force, controlling much of the Mediterranean Sea.

Despite the apparent success of the Empire over the 14th and 15th centuries, the Empire was in fact extremely vulnerable. Mehmed, Selim and even Suleiman rejected the idea of heavy territorial expansion and making substantial investments. Consequently, both the land and the people were exploited to the point of exhaustion. This policy meant that the Ottoman Empire relied on continuous expansion for stability. If it did not grow, it was likely to collapse, and having already taken over thousands of kilometres of land, the downfall was almost inevitable.

The Ottomans gradually fell behind Europe with regards to military technology, partly due to growing religious and intellectual

conservatism. The huge numbers that made up the Empire presented both administrative and economic difficulties, including high unemployment and comparatively poor living standards. The development of new trade routes allowed swift European expansion and multiple failed military take overs ensued. The second failure to occupy Vienna in 1683 set the stage for stagnation and decline. Contrary to the rapid expansion which characterised the early stages of the Empire, the Ottomans were now on the defensive, and were forced into treaties with European powers to ensure their survival, the Treaty of Belgrade (1793) being a good example. A brief period of peace gave the Empire an opportunity to recover, and although some reforms were made, the power shown in the 16th century under Suleiman the Magnificent, was never to be repeated. The parliament established in the 1840's only lasted two years before being abolished. The Christian sectors of the Empire for the first time in centuries pulled ahead of their Islamic counterparts regarding many aspects of society- the number of Christian children in schools for example vastly exceeded that of Muslim children. Much of the Ottoman's land acquired was to be returned to the European states. The Balkans, who suffered oppression in the early stages of the Empire, continued the humiliation of the Ottomans in the early 20th century Balkan wars.

The occupation of Constantinople by rebels led to the establishment of a Turkish national movement which won independence un-

der Mustafa Kemal Pasha. The last Sultan of the Empire, Mehmed VI, left Turkey on 17th November 1922 and despite partial continuation of the Ottoman caliphate, that too was abolished two years later. Although in its last years, the Ottoman Empire fell from extreme power, this in no way allows it to be categorised as a failure. Under leaders such as Mehmed I, Selim I and most of all, Suleiman the Magnificent, the Empire thrived in what was a very competitive environment. The economy flourished and the Empire formed out of nothing by a small group of Turks outcompeted some of the greatest nations. The major downfall of the Empire was the concept by which rulers planned in the short term, causing underlying fragility which slowly led to the collapse. However, despite being almost completely driven out of Europe, the Empire still controlled 28 million people in 1914. Under great strain, the Empire posed a threat to all of Europe and much of Africa and Asia. The mere survival of the Empire for three centuries after the early 17th century downturn, gives reason to argue that the Ottoman Empire was one of the most successful in all of history.

Sam Myhre—Year 12





The Galactic Empire

Before you say anything, no this isn't a joke article and no I'm not going to talk about Darth Vader for two and a half pages.

Whenever we think of Empires throughout history our minds roll back to the predictable selection of the Roman Empire, the British Empire, the Ottoman Empire and other prominent land empires. This article, however, will examine the extent of the less conventional and certainly exponentially fascinating empire in space, or as Wikipedia would refer to it, the Galactic empire, which I think sounds much better. Although, technically not an official empire, it would be foolish to deny that the human race hasn't surmounted some small part of the local vicinity of planet Earth.

Our expansion from Earth into the farthest reaches of outer space has long been the

focus of popular science fiction television and computer games such as Star Trek and Star Wars. What most people do not realise, however, is that our first tentative steps towards this era in Earth's future have already been made. Generally, today one does not allocate 'space' as the conquered or annexed property of any single nation, partly because today a lot of space exploration is cooperative with multiple nations involved in one space project but also because, for the most part, our galactic empire consists of, not physical conquered land but information and the mere fact of having been outside the Earth's atmosphere. That space affairs are all cooperative efforts has not always been the case however.

So what started the Space Race? Apart from man's desire to expand ever outwards ex-

ploring the universe around him, it was the advances made in developing V2 rockets by German scientists during WWII that set the stage for space craft. When these scientists surrendered to the Americans and the Russians, their extensive technological advances went with them.



The Beginning

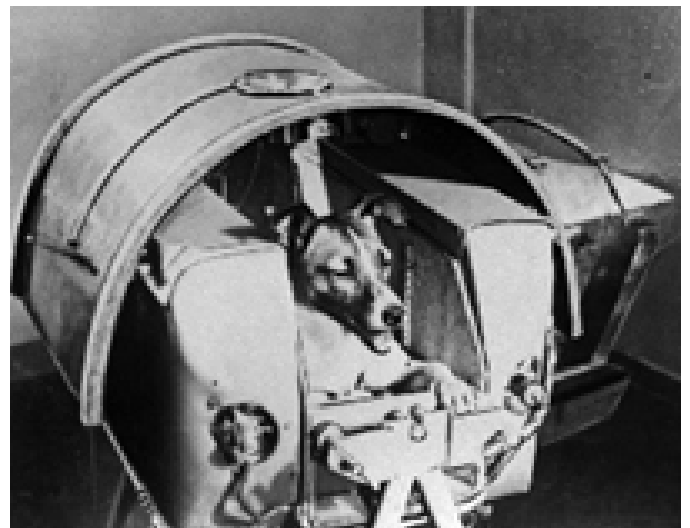
Humanity first took to the stars in the 1950s during the Cold War when a battle for outer space erupted between the USA and the USSR. The first successful space flight was made by the Sputnik (Russian for 'Satellite') 1 on 4th of October 1957. This was a Soviet victory and marked the beginning of space exploration and started the Space Race that would dominate much of the Cold War rivalry between capitalism and communism. The satellite orbited Earth in the thermosphere, just below the exosphere (the highest layer of our atmosphere) taking readings from the atmosphere.

Having received a proverbial 'boot up the backside', the Americans attempted to launch a satellite of their own, the Vanguard TV3, but it was unsuccessful. By the time they achieved a successful launch on

January 31 1958, the Soviets had already sent the dog Laika into space in November the year before.

For many years it was the Russians who dominated space, they sent the first human into space, Yuri Gagarin, in April 1961 and the first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova aboard the Vostok 6 in June 1963. So why was it that the Americans were seemingly so far behind in asserting their authority outside Earth?

We know at this time that both the USA and the USSR were pretty much equally powerful when it came to technology. There were two main factors that contributed to US national humiliation. One of these was that the US failures were broadcast all around the world. One drawback of democracy for the Americans was that nothing was secret and their failures as well as their successes were made public instantly. The USSR had the comfort of keeping all their failed launch attempts, which were numerous, a secret (including a fire in one of the Vostok spacecraft that taught the Soviets that pure oxygen environments were dangerous, something the



Americans did not realise for a number of years). Additionally, it was President Eisenhower's fear that if he used military missiles as launchers he would be called a Warmonger. He thus forbade the use of military missiles in the space program putting the USA years behind the USSR in terms of development. The USA were ready to launch a satellite using a military missile in 1956, a year before the Soviets, had they been allowed to launch then, the Space Race might have been a much shorter affair.

It was not until the Moon landing of 1969 that the USA was able to establish itself as the leader and winner of the Space Race. For those who were alive when it happened, the moment when Neil Armstrong uttered the words "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" was the defining moment of the Space Race as well as one of the most poignant moments of human history. It was on this day that humanity, regardless of nationality, stepped foot on another world and the day that the American flag was placed on the surface of the Moon. Looking back at the Earth, Neil Armstrong said, "I didn't feel like a giant. I felt very, very small".

So why then is the human empire in space shared between nations and not solely the property of the USA? Well that's probably down to an agreement made between President Richard Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev to secure a 'thaw' in the (ever tenses) Cold War known as détente. With this came a policy of cooperation. The need for an end to hostilities that had lasted far

too long gave rise to an inspirational event at the time known as the 'Apollo-Soyuz Test Mission' where US and USSR satellites docked with each other forging a relationship that would spearhead the collapse of communism and the end of the Cold War. From the moment the Soviet Soyuz docked with the US Apollo module the necessity for competition, that had long split the world in two subsided and, from the ashes, cooperation was born.



Indeed, this was not the first plan for cooperation, for in September 1963, Kennedy made a speech proposing a joint USA – USSR Moon landing programme. Khrushchev was willing to accept the offer, however, Kennedy's unfortunate assassination came two months later, and with a seemingly 'alien' American president in control of the US, Khrushchev subsequently lacked motivation to press for the idea. He had begun to trust and warm to Kennedy, but wasn't prepared to work with Lyndon B Johnson with whom he was not familiar.

The Present

The Space Race wasn't the only way in which the galactic empire was furthered however. Later on in the 70s, 80s and 90s the US voyager space probe series saw automated probes venture in to deep space conducting flybys of all the major planets in the solar system with other probes venturing even further; billions of kilometres away to take pictures of the Earth from afar! Were you to quantify how much each country owns space by the number of satellites each country currently has up in space as of 2013, Russia would own just over half of space and the USA would possess two sixths of space. The final sixth would be possessed by 64 countries including China, Japan, the UK, Germany and France. The reality is that space doesn't belong to any one country and the Apollo–Soyuz Test Mission is to thank for that.

The future

So although our galactic empire isn't quite like the one a long time ago in a galaxy far far away, with technology developing at its highest ever rate, one day, it may well be. The picture taken by the US voyager satellite showing Earth as the miniscule circled object in a sea of black, encapsulates the nature of our insignificance. There could well be other life forms out there potentially with a truly galactic empire far greater than ours. There could be a whole amalgamation of extra-terrestrials from different planets whom we simply have not discovered yet. Regardless that does not change the extraordinary achievements of the USA and the USSR during the Cold War a time when technology was far less advanced

than it is today. This is a prominent reminder that, "necessity is the mother of invention", with the rivalry of the Cold War providing the necessity required. What we do possess is, not only the victory over the vast and seemingly endless vacuum beyond our world but also, the unstoppable drive to explore that always leaves us wanting more, for as a very old and very wise man once said, "you dreamt of another sky, new sun, new air, new life. A whole universe teeming with life. Why stand still when there's all that life out there".

Daniel Foran—Year 12

The Top 10 Emperors

10. Marcus Aurelius: Roman

Marcus Aurelius was Roman emperor from 161 to 200 CE, but he ruled with Lucius Verus as co-emperor until his death in 169CE. After 169CE, Marcus spent most of his time battling against rebellious Parthians, Germans and Britons on the empire's borders. Throughout his reign, he managed to keep all of the land that he inherited, however he didn't gain any noticeable towns or villages either. He was regarded as a humane and democratic ruler, despite his brutal persecution of the followers of Jesus Christ. Aurelius was also an avid philosopher, who wrote 'Meditations'.

9. Samrat Ashoka the Great: Indian

Ashoka, also called Aśoka, was the last major emperor in the Mauryan dynasty of India, and he reigned from 265 to 238 BCE. In his early life as an emperor he engaged in war with different states. He was a very short tempered person. At that time he was called 'Chandaashoka', which means "Ashoka the Fierce". He is largely credited with spreading Buddhist beliefs globally, with the emblem of modern India deriving from the Lion Capital of Ashoka. According to his own accounts, Ashoka conquered the Kalinga country (modern Orissa state) in the eighth year of his reign. He could have easily controlled the most southern section of the Indian sub-continent as well, but he decided not to. Some versions say that Ashoka was sickened by the slaughter of the war and refused to keep on fighting; others say that because of his Buddhist beliefs he wanted to be peaceful.

8. Akbar the Great: Indian

Akbar the Great was fourteen when he succeeded his father, Humayun, and he lived to become the third, and one of the greatest rulers of the Mughal Dynasty in India. When Akbar inherited the Kingdom at the age of fourteen, it only consisted of a few frail collections of towns, so his main challenge was to expand the empire. He allied himself with the defeated Rajput rulers, and rather than demanding a high "tribute tax" and leaving them to rule their territories unsupervised, he created a system of central government, integrating them into his administration, hence gaining their trust. Under Akbar the Great, India developed a strong and stable economy, leading to greater commercial expansion. (continued page 30)



How similar is the EU to the Holy Roman Empire?

On 6th August this year, Europe will come together to mark the 208th anniversary of the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire, a great realm which spanned 3/4 of Europe and dominated it both religiously, politically and socially for almost 1000 years. In spite of this, many people believe it is the last in a long line to unite Europe under one common leader state. It may surprise you to know, then, that the Holy Roman Empire has been reincarnated, it may have a new name, it may have different rules, it may have changed its façade but at heart it is still the same. So by what name is this em-



pire known? It is known as the European Union, born not just out of the horrors of

two world wars but also from the mistakes made by the HRE.

Perhaps the most obvious similarity between the Empire and the Union is the issue of “etwas auf die lange Bank schieben” (‘to shove something onto the long bench’). Unfortunately, this issue plagued both the Empire and the EU throughout their durations; when have EU bureaucrats ever made a decision full stop, let alone quickly? The very thought of a snappy decision in the Union is laughable. In English, the German idiom literally means either debating something for endless hours, weeks, days, for no apparent reason and to no end, or to ignore an important problem indefinitely; the equivalent of tapping over a warning light because it annoys you. Perhaps this was done to stall for time, or, more likely, because the best course of action was not favourable for the people involved such as, oh, the rich princes. Similarly, an issue that has grown worse over the years is the formality of the events; in ye olde times boring, secure and official summits were a thing of the future; when

Ferdinand III, the Habsburg monarch of the Holy Roman Empire, arrived in “Brussels” (Regensburg) in the mid-17th century, there were sleigh rides, fireworks, Italian operas, as well as 60 musicians, not forgetting the three dwarves. Sadly, although possibly for the best, there is none of this in the EU; dull, efficient summits, pre-occupied with legality. Formal procedure seems to have got in the way of participation in discussion, drastically reducing the effectiveness of the meetings. The very compilation of the EU is similar to that of the Holy Roman Empire because in the European Council heads of state would gather to deliberate. This composition reminds people of the old Reichstag in which representatives of cities as well as principalities.

Another similarity is the constant struggle for power; while bloodthirsty execution by battle-axe may be a thing of the past, arguments and bitterness are not. Regrettably, tensions over who is in charge and who should have the biggest say have seemingly deteriorated over the centuries. For its last 150 years, the empire had more than 300

territories (however bad the EU is doing, always remember this: the HRE had 10 times as many quarrelling, rebellious states). Some thought each territory should have equal say, whereas some maintained bigger states should have more of a say (thus allowing the bullying of smaller states by powerful princes). But if power is shared equally, then any corrupt city can stop progress. And should votes be taken by majority or unanimity? Some believed the tensions that rive the EU between larger and smaller countries may be its downfall, and this great opportunity for world peace may disintegrate instantaneously. Whether Brussels can hold it together or not, it was this never-ending debate that finally lead to the downfall of the empire, so will the EU follow suit? What was the answer to power struggles in the HRE? Regrettably, the same answer as the EU- it depends.

Crucial in a medieval world, religious beginnings unite the empires as well. The so-called leader of the HRE was Karl Der



Grosse “Charles the Great”, AKA Charlemagne, who was, rather conveniently, crowned by Pope Leo III on Christmas Day 800 AD. Surely the EU was not started by the Church as well? Surprisingly, some believe it was. Germany had three Reichs (Empires); the Holy Roman Empire, the German Empire-which didn’t last nearly as long and resulted in WWI and finally Germany (and potentially Europe) under Nazi rule, led by Hitler, who tried to conquer Europe to revive the failure of the first two before him. However, some claim there is a Fourth Reich, which is yet another attempt to revive the Roman Empire. Many people deduce that it is already in existence in embryonic form and is called the European Union. Nonetheless, some other people believe that the fourth Reich was to gain control of Europe by means for disciplinary trade as well as by means of economics. People therefore think the Germans have tried to do this through the EU. So where does religion fit in? After the horrors of the Holocaust, it was concluded that unifica-

tion against racism was desperately needed- people should be accepted whatever their religion. Furthermore, it could be argued that the EU has a duty to uphold Human Rights, so the right to free speech and belief is automatically protected.

Finally, another connection, yet one the EU has built upon, is the almost complete control of Europe. United under a common currency, soon a common army, a common government and even computer finance system, the EU is similar to the HRE in that it dominates Europe, while still maintaining diversity (although some may argue this is slipping away...). Nevertheless, with many member states, keeping a centralized leader becomes challenging, and Brussels still faces the same problems of the HRE. Prussia and Austria were key factors in the demise of the empire; growing stronger and larger by the year, these two superpowers became a great threat. However, this was not just because of the extensive lands outside of the empire (which was common in a medieval world) but because of their power. The somewhat weak HRE was pushed about by Prussia, who put its own interests above the empire’s and refused to obey its laws and comply. Coupled with conflict against Austria, these events were the beginning of the end. It is crucial that this does not occur in the EU, who some suggest will welcome North African and Middle Eastern states (just like the HRE). History must not repeat itself; the euro crisis must not let



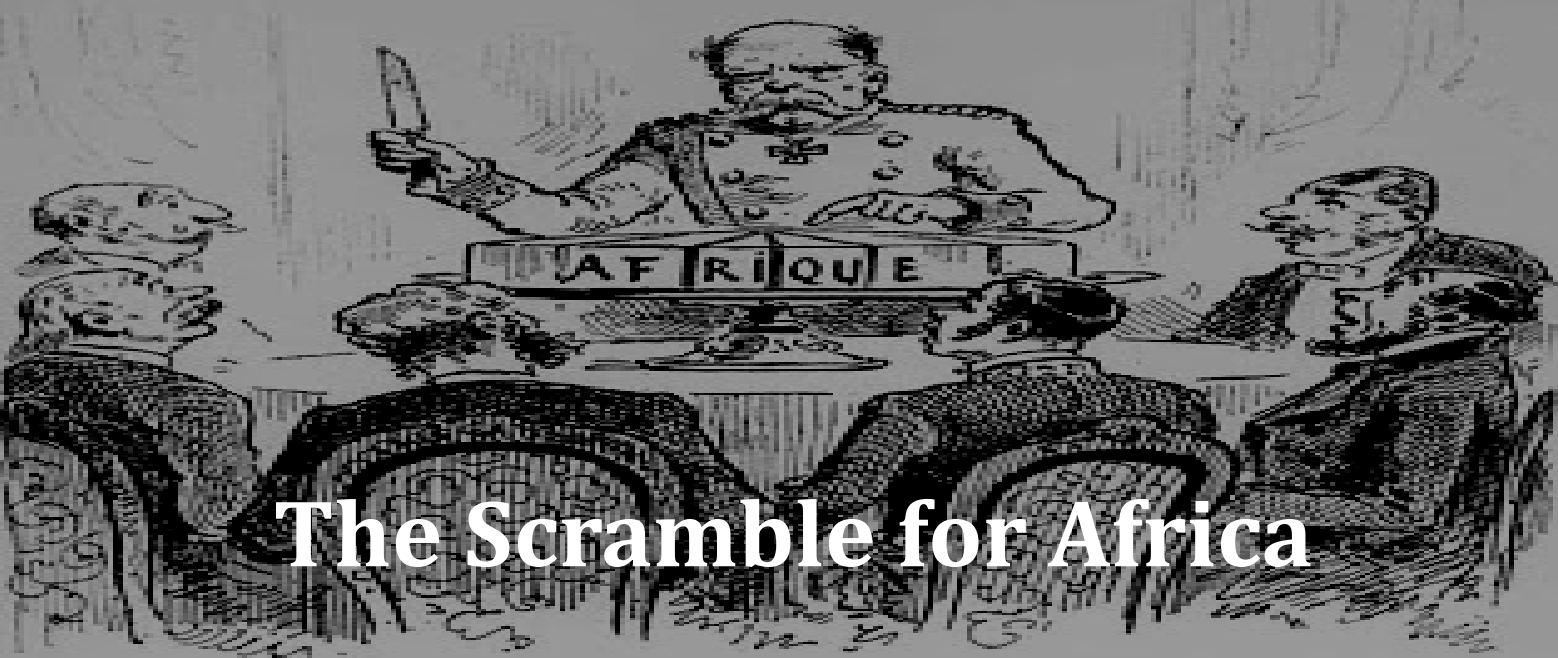
centripetal forces (“ever closer union”) turn into centrifugal ones, leading to member countries exiting from the euro zone or even the EU.

So, is the EU similar to the HRE? Yes. Has the EU learnt from the HRE? Yes and no. As each law is passed, the EU is beginning to look more and more like the HRE—a super-power determined to control Europe, yet unite it as one. We still have the same power struggles (although they are more civilised—we no longer slay enemies by gruesome medieval methods), we still have the same indecisiveness, and we still have the issues of looking to the future and the growth of a powerful state: there is definitely a long way to go before we achieve a system that will please everyone. Indeed, some may believe we have taken a step backwards - is the EU becoming too formal, at the expense of actually getting things done? Or, more to the point, is the EU destined to fail? Do the German Reichs and

the HRE testify that dominating and powerful unions don't work? Can't work? By many, the EU is looked upon as a great opportunity which, in this day and age, we simply cannot afford to throw away. While a minority would be pleased if the EU collapsed, it is clear that the death of the empire, which lasted for almost a millennium, inspired sorrow in people's hearts. “It is as if we had one funeral after another,” wrote Goethe's (a German writer and statesman) mother Catherina to her son in August 1806, just a couple of days after the HRE was disbanded as an ‘anachronism’. “That is how our joys now look.”

**Simon Knowles and Luka Jojic —
Year 8**





The Scramble for Africa

The African continent has always been a land full of natural, mineral resources and this quality was severely exploited by the European colonial powers during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The mass imperialism began after King Leopold II of Belgium sent explorers to the continent, who discovered the vast resources of the country of Congo. The Belgian monarch saw the large profits available from the sale of raw minerals and other materials found in the Congo basin and as such, colonisation of Africa increased heavily from this point. The explorations lead to numerous other European countries sending intrepid entrepreneurs into the jungles and deserts in order to find large profits for their own monarchs.

After King Leopold II claimed the country of Congo as his own personal property the other European countries called for conference, the Berlin Conference of 1884-85. The conference defined the “principle of effective occupation”, the new principle that was required in order for a major power to form a colony from an African country. The principle stated that the colonialists had to have treaties with local leaders, fly their flag there and to have

established an administration in the territory to govern it with a police force to keep order. The conference set into place a wave of new imperialism as the conference allowed European countries to invade quite easily. Moreover, the weaponry used by the invading powers was far more advanced than that of the people trying to defend their countries, due to the industrial revolutions of Europe during the 19th century that had not occurred in Africa, making it even easier for the Europeans to colonialize.

Prior to the introduction of the new imperialism in 1885, only South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, Angola and Mozambique had been colonized by European powers. Between 1880 and 1914 the rest of the continent was taken over in a mad dash for power by the leading European empires, hence the “Scramble for Africa”. The main countries involved in the “scrambling” were Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Portugal and Belgium. The fight for control of the different countries was just another platform on which the squabbles and European conflicts were highlighted, wars and disagreements between the powers were translated onto

the African continent.

Britain's original purpose to enter the race to gain African territories was to control the Suez Canal, the body of water which connected Britain to the colony of India. This was a very important trading route for the British, and as such controlling the territories along the eastern coast of the continent was vital in order to protect their trade and trading ships. If rivals such as France, Italy or Germany controlled the countries along the Suez Canal then the British trading ships would be in danger of being attacked, losing produce and consequently profit from their colonies. Furthermore, prior to the mass colonisation of Africa, Britain controlled Egypt and South Africa, colonies at opposite ends of the African continent. Therefore, in order to help control both of the colonies and gain more territories in Africa, the British, under the instruction of Cecil Rhodes, constructed the Cape to Cairo railway, a transport system that enabled Britain to control all the countries the railway travelled through.

The main reasons for the vast, rapid change in control across the continent was the end of the slave trade, military innovation, medical advances and the lack of room for expansion in Europe. After the slave trade was abolished the Europeans and Africans had no means of trade, consequently losing large profit margins for the European powers, therefore a new product worth trading for was required. The mineral resources discovered in Africa, as mentioned earlier, were seen as a new trading item and the only way in which the materials could be extracted was through colonising the countries first.

Before the late 19th century Western Africa had almost been impossible to colonise due to the infectious diseases malaria and yellow fever. However, French scientists discovered a cure for malaria, quinine, and from that point onwards explorers were able to survive in Western Africa and consequently the French dominated the colonisation of that area of the continent. In addition, it was only in the latter half of the 1800s that Germany and Italy were formed as official countries and they then wanted to create empires to challenge those of fellow European countries Britain and France. However, there was no room for expansion in Europe, so to create empires the only room for expansion was in Africa and this was one of the main pushing points for the invasion of Africa.

By 1915 the whole of Africa was colonised, not for the good of the people, but for the benefit of the European powers. France had control of most of Western and Northern Africa, Britain controlled parts of northern, eastern and southern Africa and the rest of the continent was controlled by other European powers. Only two countries in the whole continent were not colonised during this 40 year period: Abyssinia (Ethiopia) and Liberia (even Madagascar was colonised). In 1870 only 10% of Africa was under European control, but by 1915 it had increased to 90%, showing the true scrambling nature of the mass colonisation.

Paul Golding—Year 12



The Mexican Drug Empire

History and empires; two words most commonly associated with swords and shields and brutality, but do they exist today you wonder? Behind the scenes, empires built on illegal produce thrive. In these shadows, hierarchies and orders have been forged, long after the swords and shields have been put down and the gun picked up.

These covert empires range all across the world; it affects huge numbers of people and with it comes vast, though illegal, profits. This of course is the drug empire that exists, entwined, most commonly, within the lives of those who subsist in poverty or areas where unemployment and lack of education rule the streets. Young adults are drawn into this world by the sweet reward of money for, what they think is, minimal effort. Little do they know that their name is down forever and unfortunately no one can ever really escape the vicious drug world.

One of the most famous places on the planet where drug empires have been erected and wars fought for dominance is of course Mexico. Since 11th December 2006 drug cartels and their own micro-empires have been fighting against one another. It is estimated that over 120,000 drug related deaths have occurred excluding people who have simply gone 'missing'. Mexico has been ravaged by this war between some of the most powerful people on the earth. In 2009, *Forbes* ranked Joaquin Guzman, leader of the Sinaloa Cartel, the 41st most powerful person in the world – ahead of French

president Nicolas Sarkozy and Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. Mexico's own president at the time didn't even make the list.

One of the most prominent drug cartels in the damaged country of Mexico is 'Los Zetas' Los Zetas is described as 'most technologically advanced, sophisticated, and dangerous cartel operating in Mexico' by the US government. This cartel is unlike any other. They much prefer brutality to bribery, as was proven by the harrowing clip of the chainsaw beheading loosed on Facebook and other social media.

Los Zetas, after their split from the Gulf Cartel in 2010 (a very powerful drug empire that Los Zetas used to be a subdivision off), grew in strength and began to carry out massacres, extortion, rape and of course murder. The cartel's growth in strength was exponential, in two years time it went from being a small section of the Gulf Cartel to controlling 11 states in Mexico making it the cartel with the largest territory.

Despite, the perpetual, torture and anguish suffered by the Mexican people, there is still hope that peace will come; as the capture of "El Chapo" (Joaquin Guzman), the head of the Sinaloa Cartel, demonstrated. Ultimately, though, the police face three colossal obstacles in overcoming the amoral druglords: corruption, lack of resources and the lure of working with drugs to the average citizen.

Firstly; corruption. Corruption, which involves the bribing of officials by cartels, can

make it very hard for the police force to carry out any meaningful work as their work is always being degraded due to corrupt higher officials.

Secondly, Mexico is a reasonably poor country and therefore the Police Force does not have a vast array of technology that it can call on to fight the cartels. In addition to that, the government of Mexico are very cautious not to turn areas of the nation into a warzone by giving the police tanks and RPGS – nevertheless, to many however the intense bloodshed makes it seem very war-like.

Lastly, despite the obvious dangers and risks involved, being a drug trafficker or working for a drug cartel is beneficial in many different aspects. Firstly, in Mexico's decaying and stagnating economy, rife with unemployment, the cartels offer people a way of making money to support their family and to drastically increase their quality of life. Drug traffickers and cartel workers are financially rewarded very well due to the vast sums of money made, with the Sinaloa Cartel alone averaging a \$3 billion annual turnover. Cartel work is also cloaked in an aura of glamour and prestige and in some towns, especially on the Mexico-US border; traffickers are lauded and are trusted more than the police, whom are depicted as being corrupt and lazy.

Cartel leaders are extremely aware how control of the citizens in a region can enhance their trade and ensure that no one snitches to the police. Firstly, the cartels try and infiltrate popular culture, by employing local musicians to write songs glorifying them known as; Narcocorridos. Secondly, millions of dollars of "drug money" is pumped into business to make this "dirty" illegal money and turn it into "clean" money, in a process called Money Laundering.

This process then creates more jobs for ordinary citizens, thus creating mutual links between the cartel and the ordinary people. However, many Mexicans in border towns such as Ciudad Juarez have had their lives devastated and ruined by Cartel activity, due to random kidnappings and daily executions. This reign of terror is utilised by the cartel to impress a constant fear upon civilians on what will happen to them if they talk to the police – thus becoming an enemy of the clan.

Secrecy is a theme that is ubiquitous in all clans, with many of the hundreds of tonnes of marijuana that pass into the US each year being grown in the mountainous regions of: Sinaloa and Mazatlan – where Joaquin Guzman had been hiding for 13 years, since he had escaped from a maximum security prison via a laundry truck in 2001. False identities and covers are also used, making it very hard for authorities to track criminals. Tunnel systems are also deployed by the cartels with Joaquin Guzman's seven homes being linked by a vast tunnel system that helped him to escape the clutches of the law once and almost twice.

The real "El Chapo" may now be behind bars but his legacy shall live on in the violent and ruthless actions of many Mexican Cartels, whose grip on the drug trade today in Mexico, the US and globally, seems stronger and deadlier than ever.

John Heffernan and Nick Woolgar— Year 11



The Top 10 Emperors

7. Kangxi: Chinese

Emperor Kangxi, who lived between 1654 and 1722, was the longest-reigning emperor in the history of China. Under his 61 years of reign from 1661 to 1722, he improved the empire's wealth and the empire, under Kangxi, enjoyed peace and prosperity most of the time. He enabled financial growth by opening four ports open to foreign trade, along with encouraging the introduction of Western education and arts and of Roman Catholicism. This helped improve Chinese-European relations, allowing future trade to become more extensive. In addition, another of his main achievements was that he added parts of Russia and Outer Mongolia to the Empire and asserted his control over Tibet in 1720, and he put down a pro-Ming revolt towards the end of his reign. To ensure that the Manchu Qing Dynasty survived, Kangxi had thirty five sons, but only twenty survived past infancy.

6. Chandragupta Maurya: India

Chandragupta was the founder of the Maurya dynasty, which ruled ancient India for about 140 years. Chandragupta's troops conquered one northern Indian kingdom after another, and took lands that stretched as far west as Afghanistan. For the first time in history, northern India had been united by one ruler; Chandragupta Maurya. He was able to conquer every part of the Indian subcontinent except for the Kalinga of Orissa and some southern subcontinent, which makes him an important emperor to Indian history. At the age of forty two he handed over his throne to his son Bindusara. He accepted Jainism and made saint Bhadrabahu his guru. He travelled to southern India and meditated while fasting until he died (this process is called sal-lekhana or santhara.)

5. Genghis Khan: Mongol

Genghis Khan (1162–1227), who came to power by uniting many of the nomadic tribes of northeast Asia, was often referred to as the 'Conqueror of the World' for his great military accomplishments, however he was a very brutal and bloodthirsty. This brutality is highlighted when during his horrific invasion of the Khwarezmia Empire, it is rumoured that after taking Samarkand, Genghis ordered that the civilians, including the children, should be beheaded and a pyramid of their severed heads erected in honour of his victory. Moreover, it is rumoured that during his invasion of Iran, Genghis had as much as 75% of the Iranian population massacred, including killing the provisional governor by pouring molten silver into his ears and

eyes. Despite his bloodthirstiness, due to his military skills, the Mongol Dynasty eventually stretched from Russia, down through Turkey and Iran and all the way across China and Korea to the Pacific Ocean. This became the largest contiguous empire ever.

4. Hadrian: Roman

Born Publius Aelius Hadrianus, probably in Hispania, Hadrian (76-138 CE) was the fourteenth Emperor of Rome. Hadrian is best known for his substantial building projects throughout the Roman Empire and, especially, Hadrian's Wall in northern Britain. The wall, which began construction in 122 AD, runs the entire length of Britain, was designed to keep 'intact the empire', by keeping the 'barbaric' Scots out of England. Hadrian changed the law so that a bankrupt person would be flogged in the amphitheatre and then released. He made the baths separate for men and women. He restored many buildings, including the pantheon, and moved Nero's colossus, in addition, he also removed Nero's image from the enormous statue. This made Hadrian popular with the Roman people, because although a few sources say that Nero was popular, the majority say that he was disliked by the common Roman people. All of this contributed to Hadrian being in the 'five good emperors', which included Nerva, Trajan, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius.



3. Qin Shi Huang: Chinese

Qin Shi Huang (259BC-210BC), born in Ying Zheng, was the first Emperor of a united China and the founder of the Qin Dynasty. He is mostly remembered as such a great emperor due to the quick expansion of his empire, which led to his entire control of the seven Chinese states. Once he had complete control of the state of Qin, King Zheng set out to conquer the other Chinese states. He took them on one by one. The first state he conquered was the Han state. Then he quickly conquered the Zhao and the Wei.

Next he took on the powerful Chu state. Once the Chu state was defeated the remaining Yan and Qi states fell easily. Now King Zheng was leader of all of China. He declared himself emperor and changed his name to Shi Huang, which meant "first emperor", because he was the first emperor to govern all of China's seven states, because in the past, there were separate 'governors' for each state.

2. Trajan (Optimus Princeps): Roman

Trajan was officially declared by the state as 'optimus princeps', which means 'the best'. He is remembered as a successful soldier-emperor who presided over the great-

est military expansion in Roman history, leading the empire to attain its maximum territorial extent by the time of his death. During his early military career, Trajan served in Syria as a military tribune during the governorship of his father. Trajan was a prolific builder in Rome and the provinces, and many of his buildings were erected by the gifted architect Apollodorus of Damascus. Notable structures include Trajan's Column, Trajan's Forum, Trajan's Bridge, Alcántara Bridge and the road and canal around the Iron Gates. In 116BCE, towards the end of his life, he expanded the Roman Empire to its largest extent in its history. However, while returning back to Rome in 117BCE, Trajan suffered a stroke and died on the way back to Rome. He was deified by the Senate, and his ashes were laid to rest under Trajan's Column. His adopted son, known more commonly as the Emperor Hadrian, succeeded him on the throne. The legacy of Trajan lived on, however: his name was so revered that every new emperor was crowned with the prayer, "*Felicio Augusto, melior Traiano,*" which roughly means, "May you be as lucky as Augustus and as great as Trajan." The effects of Trajan can still be seen today, as many of Rome's landmarks and buildings were commissioned while he was in power, such as Trajan's market, which is a very popular tourist destination even today.

1. Augustus Caesar (Octavian): Roman

Caesar Augustus was born Gaius Octavius on September 23, 63 BCE, in Velletri, Italy. Julius Caesar, his great-uncle, took an interest in Augustus, and when Julius Caesar was assassinated, he left Augustus the throne in his will. However, he had to fight the armies of both Cleopatra VII and Marc Antony, who had their own plans for power following Julius' death. He won, making him the sole, undisputed leader of Rome. However, instead of



following Caesar's footsteps and making himself dictator, Octavian in 27 BC founded the principate, a system of monarchy headed by an emperor holding power for life. During his reign, he stretched the expansion of the Roman empire as far as the Elbe in Germany, his stepsons Tiberius and Drusus undertook the task (Augustus had married their mother Livia in 38 BC). However, because Drusus died mid-way through the campaign, Augustus was forced to abandon expansion east of the Rhine. Military disaster, the loss of his grandsons and a troubled economy clouded his last years. He became more dictatorial, exiling the poet Ovid (8 AD), who had mocked his moral reforms. He died on 19 August 14 AD.

Max Sinclair-Johnson—Year 9



The British Empire: The Phantom Menace

"Every empire tells itself and the world that it is unlike all other empires, that its mission is not to plunder and control but to educate and liberate." (Edward W. Said)

It is a typical, yet ultimately fallacious, approach of the defender of Imperialism to pretend that their preferred Empire was in some way morally superior to any of its immediate predecessors. The Romans, the Greeks, the Ottomans, Emperor Palpatine's Galactic State ... all relied upon a deeply entrenched bedrock of brutality. Even modern day empires, the Chinese sphere of influence in central Africa and the American presence in the Middle East, rely upon unscrupulous methodology (on occasions) to maintain control and to implement policy. Imperialism is, by definition, an obstacle to the effective progress of *overarching* human civilisation – at least a form of civilisation built upon the notion of equality of opportunity and aspiration.

The British Empire, ostensibly, **appears** to stand as a 'beacon' of morality (*G. Marshall*) when aligned beside this sullied pantheon of Imperial corruption. This impression, propagated by 'revisionists' such as Ferguson and Michael Gove, obscures

damning reality behind a screen of chauvinistic misdirection. British colonialism, despite its benefits, rejecting fascist totalitarianism in the 1940s and broader political liberalism, stands as the 'phantom menace', the Darth Sidious who boasts a façade of warmth but possesses scars lurking underneath.

The British Empire did, admittedly, play a leading role in the abolition of the slave trade, with Wilberforce's contributions commendable. However, in place of slavery, in the mid-1800s came an equally damaging creed – Social Darwinism, a deplorable ideological belief in the inherent supremacy of 'the white man' which was directly stimulated by the trappings of Empire. Kipling indeed stood as the 'eloquent voice of the idea of Empire' (*G. Marshall*) when he wrote, in one of his lesser-known poems, 'The White Man's Burden':

Your new-caught, sullen peoples, Half-devil and half-child

Kipling's literature stands as an epitomization of the dual nature of British colonial rule – the dynamism of 'If' countered by the deep-rooted conviction in racial inequality which shapes both the above oeuvre and his most highly regarded work,

'The Jungle Book'. Far more damaging than this, however, was the doctrine preached by Kipling's close ally, Cecil Rhodes. His theories of the eugenics-like suppression of the African native population, arguably 'sowed the seeds' for both Apartheid rule and the egregious pseudo-scientific experimentation of Nazism and Japanese fascism. Rhodes, was not an isolated supporter of this pernicious notion of Anglo-Saxon superiority – far from it. Balfour, an 'aloof', manipulative magnate who sought to utilise his political influence to steer governmental policy away from the moralistic propriety of Gladstone and Disraeli. Palmerston, a commander willing to wage a trade war based upon the forced addiction of millions of Chinese to opium. Coercion from 'the top', placed alongside intrinsic racial biases, tarnished the overall operation of the Empire – plutocrats and ideological conservatives from the highest echelons directing policy in a manner which neglected the basal needs of the hundreds of millions subject to the authority of the Crown.

This deep-rooted prejudice was manifested most clearly at Amritsar – though the massacre was but one of a catalogue of notorious Imperial backlashes against localised demands for reform. Many of the culprits were actively lauded by the colonial establishment. Colonel James Neil, the butcher of Allahabad during the 1857 Mutiny, escaped entirely unpunished following his summary execution of hundreds of

Brahmins, renowned for their pacifying approach – indeed, an island was posthumously named after him. Even in the Empire's so-called 'finest hour', during the Second World War, racial pre-conceptions continued to define Britain's overseas strategy– Churchill's effective response to the 1945 Famine in the Low Countries contrasting sharply with his blunt denial of aid to ameliorate the consequences of the infamous 1943 Bengali Famine. These are just two of many atrocities either or-



chestrated or abetted by the British Empire – the Aden torture centres, the crushing of the Mau-Mau insurgency, the 'prison villages' of Malaya...

These incidents, nevertheless, merely touch the tip of the iceberg of British colonial malpractice. The Empire's legacy is demonstrated on daily basis, embodied by global news stories. Its collapse after the Second World War established some of the most unstable borders in the 21st Century. Whenever one hears of tension on the Pakistani-Indian border, the blame must fall squarely upon Atlee's govern-

ment— the appointment of Sir Cyril Radcliffe, a bureaucrat with no experience of the Subcontinent, to supreme authority over the border-drawing process is symptomatic of the folly of centralised Imperial control. Whenever allusion is made to the difficulties in establishing a definitive two-state solution in Palestine, the role of Britain in both the 1937 Peel Commission and the UN negotiations following the termination of the Mandate must be held somewhat responsible. The damaging disintegration of British rule, in this respect, mimicked the fragmentation-inducing legacy of preceding Empires such as the Roman and Qing Chinese.

Much has been made, understandably, of the positive impact of Imperialism during the Second World War. Canada, in particular, generously supported the ‘motherland’, both economically and militarily. However, despite the undoubted moral value of the triumph of the British Empire over fascism, Churchill’s approach to the peace-making process directly encouraged the development of the seminal conflict of the latter half of the 20th Century – the Cold War. His imperialist designs, manifested at Teheran and Yalta, encouraged the USSR to pursue a policy of aggressive expansion following the Red Army’s occupation of Eastern Europe. The intrinsic link between the fall of the British Empire and the rise of the Soviet Empire is encapsulated most clearly in the so-called ‘naughty document’, signed at the Fourth

Moscow Conference of 1944 – Churchill expressly authorising the division of the Balkans into regions of capitalist and Communist influence. Britain, therefore, far from maintaining a base of moralistic propriety, was arguably one of the driving forces behind the repressive Communist rule of Eastern Europe between 1945 and 1990.

Economically, despite the impressive adherence to free trade demonstrated by the Empire throughout its meteoric rise, ultimately, as shrewdly noted by the doyenne of the financial literati, Adam Smith, British Imperialism was not an effective form of monetary governance. In his magnum opus, ‘The Wealth of Nations’, Smith writes, in response to extensive debate in the late 18th Century regarding the American possessions:

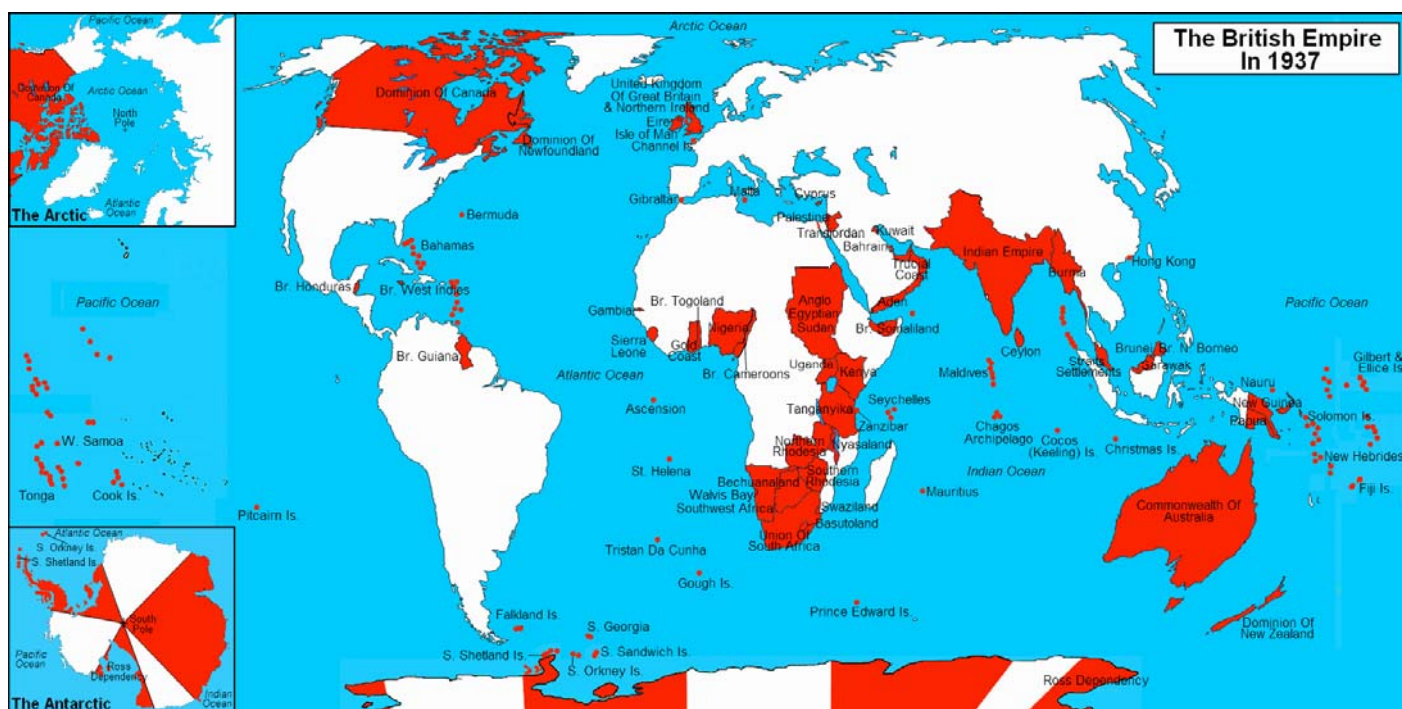
‘Under the present system of management, therefore, Great Britain derives nothing but loss from the dominion which she assumes over her colonies.’

Smith’s viewpoint, namely that the beneficial monopoly provided to merchant traders by the rejection of tariff policy placed expenditure artificially on the bulk of the populace without significant net gain, stands up to scrutiny. One has to consider the actual socio-economic impact of the British Empire upon the **British people** – scholars have reasoned persuasively that industrialisation was the cause of Victorian prosperity, the Empire simply a money-leeching burden, absorbing revenue

through defence costs and overly extended trade routes. Smith's words resonate particularly when one considers the financial decay of British Colonialism in the first half of the 20th Century – London's lapse into a form of 'Imperial Preference' shattered the fiscal stability of the overarching nation, weakening its position at both Breton Woods and Potsdam.

The British Empire, at first glance, as noted above, often adopts the guise of being a genuinely positive, progressive force for change, a bastion of principled rule and civilised governance. Yet this image, in actuality, remains just that – an image, without any substantiating evidence underpinning it. Economically unbeneficial to the demographic majority, both in Britain and in the Colonies, politically destructive and most importantly philosophically corrupt at times, British Imperialism crystallised the most unpleasant form of Nationalist jingoism, justifying the expansion of admittedly more moralistically reprehensive colonial powers. It cannot be doubted that Britain, more than any other state, has shaped the formation of the modern world, yet many of these positive impacts are sullied and scarred by the ugliest face of our nation: its dark and bloody imperial past.

Charles Connor—Year 12





Always Wear Sunglasses: defending the Empire upon which the sun never set

One of the many dismal attributes of George Lucas' Star Wars franchise – alongside dreadful dialogue, wooden acting, the Ewoks, Jar-Jar Binks, humanised robots and dehumanised humans – is his contribution to the negative portrayals of empire. In Lucas World the golden age was the age of the Republic, then evil takes over in the form of an emperor and his empire, and finally the virtuous if anaemic rebel fighters return goodness to the galaxy in the form of another republic. And so, in Lucas' cack-handed space opera, empire is once again reinforced in the popular imagination as a corrupt, evil, black cloak wearing and alarmingly asthmatic form of politics. Can this really be true? So entrenched is this view of empire that it becomes difficult to suggest there might actually be an alternative rendition. And, of course, history is not helpful. There is no doubt that we have plenty of examples of empires which have over-reached themselves, waged bloody wars of conquest and imposed unacceptable oppression upon subject peoples. Just

consider the roster – the Romans, the Ottomans, the Russians (and their later, even worse, incarnation as the Soviets), the Vikings, the Aztecs, various Chinese dynasties. These are not examples of enlightened, progressive rule.

But there is one empire that stands out from the imperial crowd. One empire whose history shines as a beacon on the otherwise nefarious story of imperial conquest. One empire which provides munificent and bountiful examples of how an imperial mother country can bring welcome benefits to the world. I'm talking, of course, of the British Empire. Far from perfect though it was – and let's face it, there is no political state or organisation known to man which has been without flaws – the British empire was nonetheless more supremely positive than negative in its impact, and the time has certainly come to remind ourselves of its extraordinary impact.

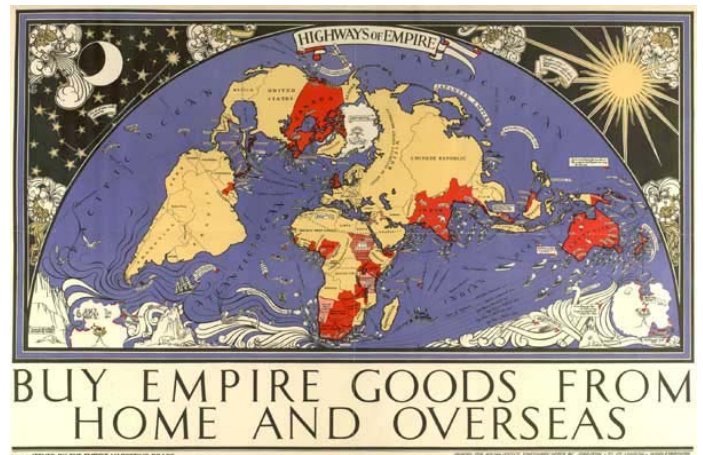
The British Empire at its height spanned

somewhere between a quarter and a third of the globe, a land mass unequalled by any other empire in history. It wasn't just the sheer volume of its territory that impressed, but its spread too. There were pockets of British ruled land in pretty well every latitudinal sector of the globe. At any point of the 24 hour day, the sun would be shining on some portion of the British Empire – truly the empire on which the sun never set.

And it was created largely by accident. There never was a deliberate plan by British rulers to create an empire. After all, as the British were expanding their rule overseas they were also pursuing the growth of parliamentary government in the United Kingdom itself. The political rulers of empire were men like the Marquess of Salisbury, William Gladstone, Benjamin Disraeli, Ramsay MacDonald and Stanley Baldwin. Hardly Vader-ish henchmen of the black cloak wearing variety, these men were often the epitome of the well-meaning English gentleman, strayed rarely from the shores of their beloved England, and devoted many of their energies to domestic issues and the managing of parliamentary government. Gladstone was a severe moralist, Salisbury an eccentric scientist who had a lab in his country mansion and despised politics, Disraeli a posing novelist with an eye for the grand gesture, Baldwin a comfortable Worcestershire ironmonger. Not a power crazed dictator among them. And the emperors they served? Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V were the very models of constitutional propriety, whatever their private thoughts about some of the men who served them. No Caesars or Suleimans here. So first and foremost, the British Empire was not one of deliberate political strategy, and had at the head of its affairs men – and one woman – who were utterly

constrained by the need to do the “right thing”.

While novelists such as Rudyard Kipling gave eloquent voice to the idea of empire, the practice of it was largely pursued by soldiers, entrepreneurs and public-school educated civil servants in a spirit of enlightened enterprise. The empire was the product of a desire for new trading markets and a belief in the civilising impact of Christian evangelism. Soldiers often came later, to protect the trading lanes that had been forged and the ex-pat communities of administrators and missionaries that had grown up in far-flung corners of the globe. With them came the government appointed civil servants upon whom the task of providing a coherent form of administration, governance and jus-



tice fell. It is noteworthy that the ruling layer of British imperial control was nearly always civilian, not military, and usually motivated by nothing more mendacious than a desire to replicate the progressive sense of British fair play under the rule of law. If Britain had managed to acquire an Empire (went the mantra of British imperialism), then the least she could do was try and ensure it was governed properly.

Gentlemanly pursuits and soft power notwithstanding, the defining characteristic of the British empire was the combination of parliamentary democracy, the rule of law and a prosperous economy based on free

trade that expanded well beyond the confines of Britain herself. These indeed are also its extraordinary legacy, alongside the bequeathing of a virtually global language in the English tongue, spoken as either a first or second language by roughly one in every seven people alive today.



It is certainly true that the British Empire had its dark side. In its early stages it was a slaving empire, building its wealth upon that appalling traffic in human beings. Never mind that that was also the accepted modus operandi of every other European empire of the time. Never mind, either, that for most European traders slaves were brought to them by rival African tribes who had no compunction about encouraging slaving when it suited them. It remained a terrible blot upon an empire that would ultimately become an enlightened and liberal polity, and to their credit the British themselves soon came to realise this. They were the first major country to turn against slavery, and the magnitude of the British Empire ensured that such a turn had a huge effect on curtailing the slave trade as a whole. The Wilberforce campaigners managed to have the slave trade itself abolished in 1807, and by 1833 the slave trade was abolished throughout the British Empire. The Indian Slavery Act of 1843 abolished slavery in both Hindu and Muslim India. No other country could have had such a significant impact in abolishing slavery, since no

other country had developed either the liberal system through which to do so, or then had the extraordinary reach of an empire by which to enforce it.

I talk of British liberal values, and the parliamentary system which, even in the early stages of its evolution, provided a constitutional and pluralistic form of imperial governance, but I am always aware – as any defender of the British Empire should be – of that rare but malevolent aspect of British rule which revealed itself in such incidents as the massacre at Amritsar. Amritsar saw the mowing down, in just ten minutes, of 379 demonstrators in a grotesque example of British military over-reach. But it was exceptional. Whilst the general responsible – Rex Dyer – had his supporters, the news of his actions quickly generated repulsion. Lord Montagu, the Secretary of State for India, angrily asked of those who defended Dyer “Are you going to keep your hold upon India by terrorism, racial humiliation, and subordination, and frightfulness....?” More significantly, that great and unrepentant defender of the British Empire, Winston Churchill, was in full throated opposition to Dyer’s actions, describing Amritsar as “a monstrous event...which stands in sinister and singular isolation”. The Amritsar Massacre stands as a horrifying exception to the usual pursuit of British rule, and British standards of constitutionalism soon re-asserted themselves. Two Congress supporting lawyers in India would soon use the British system itself to summon Dyer before a commission of inquiry to answer for his actions. Few empires can claim such remarkable propriety.

The British Empire was run in a way that stood in stark contrast to nearly every previous – and succeeding – empire in history. But it isn’t simply this that marks it out as a

beacon of historical hope. The legacy of the empire remains an extraordinary and positive one, which has shaped the world we live in today. In May we saw the largest exercise of democracy ever witnessed in the world as India went to the polls. As the most populous democracy on the planet India was exercising the legacy left directly to her by her former rulers. And Britain didn't just bequeath a democracy; India's schools, universities, civil service, army, press and parliamentary system all owe their existence to the British model. India may be the largest and most significant example of the empire's parliamentary and democratic legacy, but she is hardly unique. Not for nothing is Westminster known as "the mother of parliaments".

The empire's other remarkable legacy is its economic one. The empire enforced a practice of free trade across the globe wherever its influence was exercised, in stark contrast to the protectionist approaches of America and contemporary European empires like Germany and Russia. When Britain's imperial power waned in the 1930s, the resultant global descent into protectionism exacted catastrophic consequences. It is not too much to suggest that the liberal capitalism which for all its occasional troughs is the source of substantial economic growth across the world today, had its impetus in the British Empire.

Even the way in which the British Empire was finally dismantled marks it out as a unique global institution. The British avoided, for the most part, the protracted bloody insurgencies of other empires, and had effectively conspired to hand its constituent parts over to its indigenous peoples within the space of a couple of decades. Bequeathing stronger governmental systems than they took over, the principles of parliamentary democracy and the rule of law, the British also maintained the virtues of a global union through the successor organisation, the Commonwealth. The fact that so many of Britain's former colonies still actively and positively maintain their membership of this organisation is further testament to the Empire's enduring appeal, while the Queen's role as Head of the Commonwealth mirrors that powerful and consensual unity which her predecessors brought to the Empire.

The British Empire pioneered free trade, abolished slavery, bequeathed parliamentary systems, upheld a rule of law over vast areas, maintained an unmatched period of global peace, invested immense sums in global communications and infrastructures, and stood as a stark contrast to alternatives to British rule such as the German, Japanese or Belgian empires. Without the empire, it is likely that Britain would not have withstood the challenges of Germany or Japan in the twentieth century, and the history of the later twentieth and early twenty-first centuries would have been far darker in consequence. No polity is perfect, and especially not a global one. But it would be hard to match the British Empire in the extent of its positive rule and legacy.

Mr Marshall



How have historical empires impacted the present day?

At its peak, The British Empire was the largest empire in the world, with its influence spanning more than a quarter of the globe. In 1922 it had over 458 million people in, which at the time was a fifth of the world's population. And though the British Empire collapsed, the impact of it is still visible, to varying degrees, in all the countries it colonised. Most obviously it is in the languages spoken, the architecture, governmental systems, sport and culture.

And it is not only the British Empire leaving a visible imprint on aspects of life around the globe – many countries that were part of an empire have been somewhat shaped by the rule they were under. Here are just a few examples of some unexpected things that exist today only as a product of empires spreading, creating or causing them:

London

This quintessentially British city is undoubtedly known globally. It is seen by the world as the showpiece of all that is British, being the home of the Royal Family, Big Ben, Tower Bridge and the London Eye. Despite this, London was actually founded by the Romans in 50AD due to Emperor Claudius wanting to expand the Roman Empire by in-

vading Britain.

Post-invasion, they wanted to retain British land and establish it for themselves, so set up a trading post to allow for goods to be imported and exported from Britain. At the time, the only way to do that was by sea, so the Romans found an area in the south of Britain with a river that was deep enough for ships to use but narrow enough to build a bridge across. And it was by this river, the River Thames, that they settled, naming the area Londinium.

Londinium's popularity waxed and waned over the years of Roman occupation, before becoming abandoned by the Romans in around 5th Century AD. Estimates put the time of abandonment at around 200 years, but due to the Roman-built Londinium walls, the area wasn't lost. Anglo-Saxons later settled within its walls, whilst around Londinium more settlements grew, before they eventually merged to become the thriving capital that we know today. Yet Londinium, created as a product of the Roman Empire, technically still exists today. The City of London, a separate, self-governing area in the heart of London, is actually just an evolution of Londinium,

with it still standing on the exact site of the original Roman development. Some of the ancient Roman walls are still visible around the City's borders today.

Tea (British Empire)

Is there anything more British than drinking a cup of tea when the going gets tough? Well even eating lasagne may be*. Tea has been drunk since ancient times, with one story even dating the invention of tea in 2737 BC. A popular legend states that Chinese Emperor Shen Nong was boiling water to drink when the leaves of a tea plant fell into his pot, resulting in the invention of the beverage. This may be true or may be simply a story, but tea had been discovered and drunk in China since around 1000BC. However, tea has only been in Britain since around 1660.

The East India Company controlled much of the trading in between England and Asia, starting in around 1600. And though it was originally just a trading body, it was subsequently used to help spread British imperialism in Asia. It is this link between Britain and Asia that led to tea being imported into Britain.

King Charles II's Queen, Catherine of Braganza, is largely credited for its popularisation. Hailing from Portugal where tea was already popular, she began to set a trend for tea drinking in Britain. Charles II, having a strong relationship with the East India Company, permitted them to occupy by places strategic to trade by force, allowing for the British Empire to expand in Asia

through the East India Company whilst also ensuring tea is continued to be imported to meet newfound British demand. Tea only exists in Europe as a product of the Portuguese and British involvement in Asia, with them looking to trade and colonise.

*Though it is seen as a traditional Italian dish, lasagne may have originated in Britain during Richard II's reign, after a cookbook from the era was discovered was a recipe for 'Loseyn' which consisted of ingredients layered between pasta sheets.



Today's Geo-Political Problems

Today, a lot of conflict arises across the world because of the impact empires had. When many empires collapsed not everything was neatly tied up and solved and some issues and complexities caused by empires still exist today.

Take Hong Kong as an example. Whilst it is now part of China, it isn't like most typical cities across the world. Hong Kong is largely autonomous, behaving more like a country rather than Chinese city. It has different citizenship laws, government systems, money

and political parties to China and is even referred to as a 'Special Administrative Region', to fully show its difference to mainland China. The reason for this region behaving in the way it does is down to the British Empire. Britain, during the 1800s, had been smuggling opium, a type of illegal drug, from India to China as a way of making money due to the high demand in China. China, unhappy about the drug smuggling, seized much of it, resulting in Britain sending the navy in to protect its investment. A war began in which the Chinese were completely outgunned - 20,000-25,000 Chinese were killed, whilst Britain lost just 69 men. In 1842, to maintain peace, China agreed to a treaty, giving Britain Hong Kong as part of its empire. In 1898 it was agreed that Britain could have a 99 year lease on the island, before it was to be handed over to China again in 1997. This handover did occur in 1997 and, as part of the agreement, Hong Kong has been allowed to stay self-governing leaving us with the 'behaves like a country, but is technically a Chinese region' situation we have today.



But the most obvious example of confusion, conflict and instability caused partly by empires is the Middle East. At the beginning of WWI, much of the Middle East was under the rule of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. However, after WWI, having sided with the Central Powers and losing, the Ottoman Empire was dissolved and the area was split up into a number of different countries. However the borders between these nations were set up in a way that meant that different ethnic and religious populations were in the same area, leading to unrest between vastly different cultures. The region also had no history of democracy leading to oppressive regimes being set up, which have been heavily fought against (eg the Arab Spring).

The Middle East remains to be one of the most politically sensitive and volatile areas in the world. However, even though the collapse of the Ottoman Empire left many unresolved disputes and unstable political systems behind, this is just a contributing factor to the unrest, with the real issues being incredibly complex and a combination of factors.

Callum Newens—Year 11

